Daily Report

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Zagreb, Sarajevo Back UN Monitors on Borders

AU1002173094 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Geneva, Feb 10 (AFP)—Croatia and the Bosnian Government agreed here Thursday to call for UN surveillance of Bosnia's borders to monitor arms and troop movements, amid renewed hopes for improved bilateral relations.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said "constructive" talks with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic on the sidelines of the all-party Geneva conference had focused on "a model of organisation of Bosnia-Herzegovina after a general normalisation" of relations between the two sides. In a joint statement both men said separate letters would be sent to the UN Security Council calling for border surveillance.

Zagreb has denied repeated accusations that regular Croatian troops are fighting in central Bosnia, where Bosnian Croat and mainly-Moslem Bosnian Government forces are engaged in a bitter territorial conflict.

Granic said military chiefs from the two warring parties were scheduled to meet next week in Sarajevo. He added that he and Silajdzic would step up efforts to ensure the unconditional exchange of prisoners of war and the repatriation of refugees.

Bosnia's ambassador to Bern, Muhamad Filipovic, told AFP that the bilateral talks offered "a very good chance to improve relations and stop the fighting in central Bosnia." UN-led controls on Bosnia's borders were desirable to prevent Belgrade from equipping Bosnian Serb forces with extra men and weapons, he added.

Zagreb's ambassador to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, said border controls would staunch the flow of arms from Serb-held areas of Bosnia to Krajina, the self-declared Serbian republic inside Croatia. Nobilo also stressed the need to avoid "further misunderstandings" over the nature of ZAgreb's support for the Bosnian Croats.

He added that Bosnian Government and Croatian officials were also discussing the make-up of the future Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The Moslems would like to see a more centralised form of government, with cantons," he said, while the Croatian side favoured a three-way union also incorportating a Serb mini-state.

Earlier Thursday Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the all-party Geneva talks aimed at securing a negotiated settlement to the Bosnian war had stalled because the Moslems were refusing to investigate Saturday's bloody mortar attack in Sarajevo which has been widely blamed on his forces.

"We could not go further until we resolve this," Karadzic told reporters, referring to establishing responsibility for the mortar attack that killed 68 and sparked a NATO ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs to remove their heavy weapons from Sarajevo by February 21 or face air strikes.

Granic, Silajdzic Agree on Joint Statement

LD1002195294 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Report from Geneva by Tihomir Vinkovic]

[Excerpt] Following their meetings in Geneva on 9 and 10 February held in an open and constructive atmosphere, Mate Granic, vice president and minister for foreign affairs of the Republic of Croatia, and Haris Silajdzic, president of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, have agreed on the following joint statement, which we present in its entirety:

1. Both countries will send letters to the UN Security Council demanding international controls over Bosnia-Herzegovina's borders to achieve a peaceful solution.

2. The two sides have agreed that the commanders of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Bosnia-Herzegovina army, Generals Ante Roso and Rasim Delic, should meet within the next seven days to outline in conrete terms an agreement on a total cease-fire between the Bosnia-Herzegovina army and the HVO in all battlefields as the first step to the solution of all issues in the interest of the Croatian and Muslim peoples.

3. Both sides will speed up negotiations on an unconditional exchange of all prisoners, particularly the Mostar group, and cooperate in the search for missing persons.

4. Both sides agreed to continue their talks on all models of future Muslim-Croatian relations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and future relations between the two countries and to respect the agreements already finalized.

5. Agreement has been reached that, regardless of any future solutions, the return of all refugees should be secured following the restoration of peace.

6. Agreement has been reached that the talks should continue and intensify.

Geneva, 10 February 1994.

This joint statement was signed by Haris Silajdzic, General Ante Roso, and Mate Granic. The joint statement is a step toward the solution of Muslim-Croatian relations as well as of relations between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mate Granic said following the signing of the joint statement. He maintains that the signed statement and the letters sent by ambassadors of the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to the United Nations in New York are a basis for appropriate action by the UN Security Council.

The plenary session began at 1800 in Geneva's Palace of Nations where peace mediators Owen and Stoltenberg are talking to the representatives of the three peoples of

Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is hard to say how long this session will last because of the irreconcilable standpoints of the Serbs and Muslims regarding the makeup of a commission which should investigate the circumstances surrounding Saturday's massacre in Sarajevo's marketplace. The Serbs insist on their own representative taking part in the commission's work, something that is being met with resolute disapproval from Muslims. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Agreement

LD1002212594 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Minister Granic [Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister], [Bosnian Muslim] Prime Minister Silajdzic, and General Roso [Bosnian Croat Army chief of the General Staff] have signed a joint statement in Geneva. Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will send letters to the UN Security Council demanding international supervision of Bosnia-Herzegovina's borders with the aim of finding a peaceful solution. The two sides have agreed that the commanders of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, Ante Roso and Rasim Delic respectively, will meet over the next seven days to implement the agreement on an absolute cease-fire between the HVO and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army on all fronts as the first step in resolving all issues of interest to the Croat and Muslim peoples.

[Begin recording] [Granic] We are deeply aware of the gravity of the problem, especially in the field. Therein lies the great importance of these meetings, because we discussed matters openly and reviewed all burning issues. As you can see, utmost priority has been given to ending all conflicts and exchanging prisoners as soon as possible. However, we also discussed all fundamental issues pertaining to overall Bosniak Muslim-Croat relations and the agreements reached so far. We will go on talking and we believe that we will be meeting again in the near future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Silajdzic] First, I must say that we held talks in a constructive atmosphere, in an encouraging atmosphere, if I can put it that way, about very difficult and complex issues. It is not that simple to find a solution. I think that the beginning was good. We agreed, among other things, to organize a meeting between military commanders within the next seven days to discuss a permanent cease-fire. We agreed that one of the main principles is the return to their homes of all refugees—whenever it is possible to control this—to talk seriously and to resume talks about the exchange of prisoners and of the Mostar group in particular. We also agreed to continue talks at all levels. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Mile Akmadzic, minister for interrepublic cooperation of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna, identified by caption] Under the auspices of cochairmen Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg, we talked about the possibility of exchanging prisoners, restoring the energy-generating system in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and about humanitarian aid. However, the focus of today's talks was the massacre in Sarajevo and the ways of establishing who was responsible for it. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna delegation in the talks with the Muslims consisted of Ministers Akmadzic and Zubak and General Roso. After the agreement reached last night about relations that are to be based on a union of three republics and about the possibility of setting up counties, provinces, regions, and cantons on an ethnic principle within the republics and with a degree of autonomy, the Muslims are again asking for something quite the opposite. They came up with a proposal that failed to mention the republics in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and this is unacceptable to the Croats.

Observers here think that the map by Komsic [Croat member of Bosnian Muslim delegation and member of Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency] is, among other things, a maneuver to gain time. The Muslims have put forward a proposal similar to the Vance-Owen plan under which the cantons or provinces—whatever you want to call them—can be formed on an ethnic principle.

Some parts of the Komsic-Muslim proposal are unacceptable to the Croats and some parts are unrealistic, sources close to the delegation of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna said.

Croats and others studied the proposed map of the cantons and reacted by saying that it had come too late. Among themselves the republics should talk about protecting national minorities. The best way of providing protection would be through cantons and counties within autonomous units. Any decision by the Serbs to leave the union would change the situation and more precise solutions would then be needed.

Both the convention in Livno and the state of Croatia itself support the EU plan, which was also endorsed by President Clinton. President Clinton's envoy Redman and diplomat Tarnoff are expected with interest here in Geneva.

The [Croat-Muslim] statement is of enormous importance at this time of pressure from the international community and on the eve of tomorrow's UN Security Council session on Bosnia-Herzegovina. It will help to create a climate more conducive to defusing the tension between Croats and Muslims.

Tudjman Meets France's Juppe; Backs EU Plan

LD1102010094 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2315 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Statements by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman following their talks in Geneva on 10 February—recorded; Juppe speaks in

French with passage-by-passage translation into Serbo-Croatian; translated from the French]

[Excerpts] The meeting between Tudjman and Juppe finished about an hour ago in Zagreb. We have just received the declarations made by President Tudjman and the French foreign minister. [passage omitted]

[Juppe] Ladies and gentlemen, given the time, I shall be brief. I would like first of all to thank President Tudjman for having received me at such short notice, as I only decided to make this trip yesterday. My delegation and I are grateful for the welcome we have received.

I came to tell President Tudjman to what extent the gravity of the situation was of concern to France. As you know, France, with its American and European allies, initiated the decision taken yesterday by the North Atlantic Council, demanding the lifting of the siege of Sarajevo and the placement of the heavy weaponry under the control of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces]. If these demands are not met within 10 days, the decision makes provision for the use of force. We are totally determined to implement this decision. In the 10 days before the expiry of the ultimatum we would like to remind everyone that a European-sponsored peace plan remains on the table. This proposal, I repeat, is still valid. It can, I may add, be adapted in the course of negotiations, and I call on all parties concerned to allow reason to prevail in order to prevent an escalation. I hope that Croatia can join in this search for a peaceful solution.

[Tudjman] For my part, I told Mr. Juppe that Croatia welcomes the current EU [European Union] and NATO decisions, adopted with the approval of the EU and the United States, to undertake resolute steps not only to bring the suffering of Sarajevo to an end but also to exert pressure on all sides to achieve peace. Croatia has also welcomed and done everything to implement the Juppe-Kinkel plan of action, which later became the EU plan. Croatia welcomes the new plan and will do everything it can to prevent further bloodshed and, as Mr. Juppe said, get all sides to accept the peace plan, which can also be modified, to end the war and provide conditions for stability and the establishment of the new international order in this part of Europe. We highly appreciate the efforts of the French Government as well as this act by Minister Juppe, who came to the dark Balkans at this late hour.

Juppe Interviewed on Talks

LD1102150394 Paris Europe No. 1 Radio in French 0640 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Interview with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe by Franz-Olivier Giesbert in Zagreb on 11 February—live or recorded]

[Text] [Giesbert] Good day, Alain Juppe. Everyone is agreed that you are the man who has made it possible for the West to recover its honor by issuing an ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs. After GATT this is a new success for you, and for French diplomacy, but now it is you whom people are going to associate with the first risks and perhaps the first deaths. You arrived in Zagreb yesterday evening. Does what you have already heard make you optimistic or not?

[Juppe] I will be wary of being optimistic. I have come here to present France's position, as defined by the president, the prime minister, and all of the ministers with authority in this matter. I had a twofold objective: The first is to convince my interlocutors of the seriousness of the situation and of the Atlantic alliance's determination to ensure that this ultimatum is enforced, and my second objective is to give a reminder that there are peace proposals, a plan, a plan of the European Union, on the table in Geneva, which may evolve. I believe moreover that our American friends are in the process of giving thought to this and working on it. It is a plan which contains the only possible solution, because there is no military solution to this conflict, of course.

[Giesbert] Something that may appear strange is that one only hears from you in connection with this matter. Are you sure of the complete and total support of Edouard Balladur and Francois Mitterrand ?

[Juppe] I am certain of it.

[Giesbert] You are hardly going to tell me otherwise.

[Juppe] That is because, quite simply, it is the truth.

[Giesbert] But the Serbs do not look as though they have decided to comply. Have you seen what Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, has said, for example: Let Foreign Minister Alain Juppe ask Austrian Foreign Minister Mock what happened to Austria in 1914, when it issued an ultimatum to the Serbs. This is a way of reminding us that the last Serbian ultimatum ended in a world war.

[Juppe] Yes, you know, Franz-Olivier Giesbert....

[Giesbert, interrupting] This is a terrible threat.

[Juppe] I am not going to launch myself into a controversy, and I believe one has to keep one's head in this matter. I will tell you that the delegation of Bosnian Serbs is still present in Geneva. So, on the one hand we have the hot air and on the other, I believe, an awareness of the danger. Moreover, the fact that these talks are continuing is the best demonstration of this.

Let me remind you that yesterday, or the day before yesterday, the Bosnian Serbs apparently signed an agreement in which they pledged to withdraw their heavy weapons, so let us not go to extremes right away. The ultimatum exists, we are determined to implement it, the Atlantic alliance will honor the commitments it has made, and in the next 10 days ahead of us let us step up the calls for greater reason and wisdom.

[Giesbert] Yesterday, however, Radovan Karadzic also said: We will not withdraw from Sarajevo because the town is not under siege; it is divided in two.

[Juppe] We did not ask for this. One has to have a look at what the proposals or the demands of the Atlantic alliance are, and those which feature in the peace plan, and as everyone very well knows, we have not demanded the withdrawal of the Serbs; we demanded the withdrawal of the artillery batteries which are carrying out the shelling which you are aware of, with the massacres which you are aware of. This is what features in the alliance's ultimatum, and this is not at all a demand for the Serbs of Sarajevo—who, it is true, have been there for centuries—to leave. In the European Union's plan, what is anticipated is UN administration of Sarajevo for the very purpose of guaranteeing the coexistence of all the communities, and finally to determine the status of this town. So, let us not mix everything up, and let us not distort the positions of the international community.

[Giesbert] Nevertheless the temperature has been rising. You were not able to see Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian nationalist leader, on television yesterday evening, because you were aboard the plane for Zagreb, but he threatened us, France, the French people, with terrible reprisals.

[Juppe] Two or three weeks ago Mr. Zhirinovskiy also threatened Germany, I believe, with a world war. He sketched out a map of Europe which eliminates several countries which currently exist, so this does not have much to do with the alliance's decision. I have said what I thought about Mr. Zhirinovskiy's attitude, and if you want to make me say that we should be watchful with regard to the situation in Europe, well, I am already convinced of that.

[Giesbert] There is of course the problem of Russia, which denies NATO's right to decide on air strikes.

[Juppe] The latest Russian statements are not encouraging at all. Having said that, I do not believe that Russia has the capacity to paralyze the system at the United Nations, not even at the Security Council. Moreover, we shall be endeavoring to convince Russia that it too must join the search for a peace plan. We have been urging them to do so for quite a long time, the United States has joined our efforts, and, as far as I am concerned, I shall seek to speak to Mr. Kozyrev in the same language.

[Giesbert] In Sarajevo, your destination, there was a fresh outbreak of shooting last night. There is a danger of new provocations.

[Juppe] Yes, that is why the ultimatum is more necessary than ever. A cease-fire having been signed 48 hours ago, we note that once again this cease-fire has amounted to nothing but words on paper. We shall therefore achieve tangible results only if the heavy weapons are drawn back or are placed under UN responsibility. This has, I think, provided further proof that we cannot stay as we are at present.

[Giesbert] Let us consider the possibility of having to envisage the worst possile scenario. The military are very skeptical. You have no doubt read what they are saying. There are 300 to 400 Serb artillery pieces deployed around Sarajevo, they are very mobile, they can be moved very quickly, the ground is mountainous and thickly wooded. Should it prove necessary, do you really believe that the Serb guns could be destroyed? That is the big question.

[Juppe] Yes, of course, that is the big question. But I would like to make it very clear to you, Mr. Giesbert, that in this affair there is no question of having the diplomats ranged on one side and the soldiers on the other. In such a grave situation, we are not so irresponsible as to fail to coordinate our efforts very closely. The decision, I repeat, was taken in close liaison between the defense and foreign ministries and there were consultations with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces], General Cot, General Rose, and also with the NATO military. Besides, all of this had been under consideration for months, since it was last July that NATO drew up the necessary plans. It is true that we are in a grave situation. This is why every effort must be made to bring the warring parties to their senses. But we have not got into this situation lightly, without having pondered matters at length.

[Giesbert] Alain Juppe, you are now leaving for Sarajevo. Will you be meeting the Bosnian Serbs?

[Juppe] No, the Bosnian Serbs are in Geneva. I was willing to meet....

[Giesbert, interrupting] There are some in Sarajevo.

[Juppe] I was willing to meet them, I was even prepared to go to Belgrade if it served a useful purpose. But I have decided that the virulence of their first reactions failed to create the necessary conditions. If matters evolve, the message which I have brought here with me must be addressed to everyone, and is as follows: Take note, the ultimatum risks creating—has now created—new circumstances. We are determined to enforce it, so let us go back to the negotiating table.

[Giesbert] As far as the Bosnian Serbs are concerned, you are public enemy number one. Are you not afraid that all this hostility might be focused on France?

[Juppe] Let us not disguise things. Above all, having asked, if not demanded, for a burst of dignity from the international community and from France in particular, I would not wish everyone to scatter in all directions just because we are faced with a difficult situation.

[Giesbert] There is a lot of talk of war, but you believe in peace.

[Juppe] There is no other solution, and as far as I am concerned I shall tirelessly do my utmost to see that this plan—over which at present the differences are of the order of 0.5 to 1 percent, 2 percent maximum—is

brought to the table again. We are not going to get into a big argument just over one or two cities, since we are here to deal with it.

[Giesbert] Alain Juppe, have a good day, and courage.

[Juppe] Thank you.

Butrus-Ghali Authorizes Defensive Air Strikes

AU1102171494 Paris AFP in English 1706 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] United Nations, Feb 11 (AFP)—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has authorized his representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina to approve the use of air strikes to defend UN personnel anywhere in the former Yugoslav republic.

The representative, Yasushi Akashi, already had the authority to call in air support to help operations aimed at reopening the airport at Tuzla and for rotating UN personnel in and out of the besieged areas of Srebenica and Zepa.

Butrus-Ghali's authorization was notified Friday [11 February] in a letter to the UN Security Council and which was obtained by AFP.

Karadzic: NATO Flexing 'Muscles' Needlessly

AU1002201994 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Interview with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic by unidentified correspondents in Geneva on 10 February—recorded; Karadzic and correspondents speak in English with superimposed Serbo-Croat translation]

[Correspondent] Mr. Karadzic, do you plan to withdraw the Serbian troops as is stipulated in the agreement on the cease-fire brokered yesterday?

[Karadzic] The cease-fire was agreed upon a week ago and is not connected to NATO threats or the ultimatum. I believe that NATO is knocking at an open door and is flexing its muscles absolutely needlessly. Our commanders have drawn up some kind of agreement on a permanent cease-fire around Sarajevo. I have spoken to Mr. Akashi about this issue, and I prepared all this. This has nothing to do with NATO.

[Correspondent] You will maintain the cease-fire?

[Karadzic] Yes. It has been brokered by the representatives of the [warring] sides and Mr. Akashi. NATO has nothing to do with us.

[Correspondent] Neither the Croats, the Muslims, nor the cochairmen want a joint commission to investigate the [5 February] Sarajevo event. Will you go on demanding it?

[Karadzic] We have encouraging information that a commission will be formed and that a Serbian expert will be part of it.

Karadzic: Pullback Not Due to Ultimatum

AU1202160094 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Geneva, Feb 12 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic confirmed in Geneva Saturday [12 February] that his forces would withdraw their heavy artillery from Sarajevo, but he also that said Moslem infantry must be controlled. NATO has issued an ultimatum for all heavy weapons to be withdrawn from Serb-besieged Sarajevo by February 21 or its warplanes will destroy the guns. The NATO demand issued last Wednesday does not include infantry or light weapons.

Karadzic said the Serb agreement to withdraw its heavy artillery was not in respect of the NATO ultimatum but according to a previous agreement reached with the UN envoy for Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi. "On 5th of February I agreed with Mr. Akashi a settlement for long-lasting ceasefire in Sarajevo and this agreement envisaged on-site control of heavy weaponry of both sides Serbian and Moslem," Karadzic said.

"We are not members of NATO. We do not live with NATO. We have agreed this ceasefire with Moslems brokered by Mr. Akashi and this agreement envisaged control of Moslem infantry," Karadzic said.

Talks on Bosnia Peace Continue in Geneva

Talks on Demilitarization Put Off

AU1102104194 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Geneva, Feb 11 (AFP)—Bosnia's Moslem-led government refused to discuss the demilitarization of Sarajevo until besieging Serb artillery is withdrawn from around the capital on the second day of peace talks here Friday.

"The Moslem side would prefer to leave that (demilitarization) until after the exclusion zone is negotiated and up and running," EC negotiator Lord Owen, a co-chairman of the talks, told reporters.

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic of the mainly Moslem Bosnian government told AFP Friday: "We refuse to discuss Sarajevo without the rest of Bosnia. We want to discuss the overall settlement now." An aide was carrying maps of Bosnia for the discussion.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic entered the second day of talks here in a decidedly more upbeat mood than on Thursday, when he refused to participate if Serbs did not join an investigation into last week's mortar massacre in Sarajevo that killed 68. A compromise was reached Thursday for the setting up of a committee with Serb and Bosnian government liaisons

involved, to investigate the massacre, which led to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation issuing an ultimatum Wednesday for Serb artillery to withdraw from around Sarajevo. The liaison formula was clearly the key to the compromise, worked out by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Bosnian Croats, the third of the former Yugoslav state's warring factions, were represented at the talks by Mile Akhmadzic.

Talks End 'Without Any Progress'

AU1202144594 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Geneva, Feb 12 (AFP)—The latest round of Geneva peace talks on Bosnia ended Saturday [12 February] without any progress and will resume at the end of February or early March, UN mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg said.

He said the Yugoslav conference was adjourning longer than usual to give time for changes in light of a February 21 NATO deadline for air strikes in Sarajevo if Serb heavy weapons are not withdrawn and diplomatic pushes by both Washington and Moscow.

Serbs, Moslems and Croats have waged a three-way war in Bosnia since April 1992. The EC-UN Geneva peace conference began in September 1992.

The three days of talks here failed to advance the plan of EC mediator Lord Owen and Stoltenberg for a loose union of three ethnic mini-states in Bosnia, Stoltenberg told reporters. The talks were marked by the United States putting its weight behind the diplomatic process and saying they would defend the Bosnian's right to a fair settlement.

U.S. special envoy Charles Redman said Friday his aim was "to do what (Clinton) has said we're going to try to do which is to try to help the Bosnian Government in these negotiations to come to an acceptable solution."

The key issue of whether Serbs and Croats will give up land the Moslems demand for their state, which is to be made up of one-third of Bosnia, was the main sticking point here, Stoltenberg said. "We did not suceed to resolve the issue of the disputed territories," Stoltenberg told reporters.

He explained the long adjournement by saying that "both the United States and Russia will in the days to come have a high activity with the parties to see if they can influence the negotiating process."

Owen had earlier Saturday said the Moslems did not want to talk about Sarajevo "until they see what happens. Probably the NATO deadline has to pass."

Owen said the increased U.S. role here, matching the military one signalled by NATO's gearing up for possible air strikes if the artillery is not withdrawn, would require re-calculations by all the factions.

Washington will "consult very widely and that will take a little time and certainly the Bosnian Government is not going to shift its position until they get that and also probably until they see what is happening in Sarajevo and whether or not there are air strikes.

"So I think there's an inevitable pause," he said.

Owen said the focus was now on talks under the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo. "There's a tremendous amount of negotiating load being put on (UNPROFOR Bosnian commmander) General (Michael) Rose and his commanders down in Sarajevo."

Asked about the possibility of the Moslems using an eventual NATO intervention as a cover for an infantry advance of their own, Owen said: "There is an imbalance of forces in Sarajevo with the Bosnian Serb forces having a overwhelming preponderance of heavy weapons and the Bosnian Moslem army having a massed preponderance of infantry in Sarajevo.

"This is potentially destabilizing unless it is met by confidence-building measures and deloyment of UN forces on the ground," Owen said. He pointed out that Sarajevo would not be totally demilitarized if the artillery withdrawal succeeds since soldiers would remain "and what is going to be done, is the UN is interposing itself between the forces, which is brave and necessary decision to take."

Karadzic Criticizes Muslims

LD1202151094 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1431 GMT 12 Feb 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Geneva, February 12 (TANJUG)—President of the Serb republic Radovan Karadzic said in Geneva on Saturday that the Moslem side at the talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina was not acting in good faith but was trying to gain time and provoke a foreign military intervention. This is the very reason why any interference by NATO, which sent an ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs, would be completely wrong, Karadzic said ahead of his talks with the Bosnian Croat delegation which began this morning.

"I have seen on television that the Serb artillery is being withdrawn from around Sarajevo and I hope that this is true," Croat delegation head Mile Akmadzic said prior to the talks, underscoring that "this will indeed be a step towards peace if the artillery is removed."

No significant progress was made at the talks between the warring sides during the previous two days. The essential question—the future organization of Bosnia and its territorial division—cannot be resolved by the negotiators at this time, since Moslems rejected the concept of a union of three republics, proposing instead a model of 17 cantons within a single state of Bosnia.

The Moslem side also refused to discuss a separate agreement on the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the placing of this city under a two-year U.N. administration, which was proposed by the co-chairmen of the Conference on Former Yugoslavia in order to arrive at a comprehensive agreement more easily.

Lord Owen, one of the two co-chairmen, also warned on Saturday that there would be no progress in the talks until the expiry of NATO's ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs—that they would be bombed unless they withdrew their heavy weapons to 20 km from the center of Sarajevo by the midnight of February 20.

Lord Owen said that the Moslems would wait to see the results of this ultimatum, so that it will not be possible to get the peace process moving before the expiry of this deadline.

Bosnian Serbs Announce Platform

LD1202180394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1658 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Geneva, 12 Feb (TANJUG)—The republic of Srpska [RS] delegation at the Geneva talks today distributed its platform to reporters. It outlines the delegation's further activities in the course of future peace negotiations on Bosnia, in a situation where the Bosnian Muslims have rejected the European Union [EU] plan.

The five-point document states that the RS assembly has withdrawn the territorial concessions it initially offered because the Muslims have rejected the EU action plan as a formula for resolving the crisis, according to which they would get 33.3 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina's territory.

In the continuation of the peace process the RS delegation, the platform points out, will proceed from the real state of affairs—on the basis of the EU plan—and the concept of a union of three republics in ex-Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The RS is a sovereign and independent state constituted in line with the universal right of a people to self-determination and it reserves the right to enter unions with other states. According to the published platform, the capital of the RS is Serbian Sarajevo (new Sarajevo). A separate peace agreement for the Sarajevo area, as envisaged under the peace plan, should be promptly signed in order to facilitate the talks on placing the city under UN administration.

The RS borders, the platform says, will correspond to the factual situation on the ground, and also the RS would have an outlet to the Adriatic Sea (according to international law - the Corfu Declaration [1917], the Saint-Germain Charter [1919], and other international treaties), while some territories can be considered to be disputed and under a special regime.

The borders between the Serb and Muslim states can, for the purpose of creating unified territories, be established by political dialogue, taking communications and other factors into consideration, and in this way a solution to the disputed territories might be found in a peaceful way.

The borders between the Serb and Croat states in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina will be defined in the framework of a comprehensive Serb-Croat solution.

The RS delegation proposes that the three warring sides immediately sign a peace agreement and enable a modus vivendi in the expectation of a final solution.

The RS will, the platform says further, continue to take part in the peace negotiations on the basis of the EU plans, but it requests equal treatment in the negotiations. This means the abolition or suspension of the sanctions and the cessation of all threats against the Serbs.

Finally, any violation of the integrity of the RS will be considered as an act of aggression, the platform unveiled by the RS delegation at the peace talks says.

Stoltenberg, Karadzic Comment

AU1202210294 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Statements by Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the Geneva conference, and Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, on the Geneva talks; place and date not given—recorded; Karadzic and Stoltenberg speak in English with superimposed translation into Serbo-Croatian]

[Text] [Stoltenberg] It has been confirmed again that all three sides will continue to act according to the plan of action of the European Union, which means on the union of the three republics. To be more precise, Sarajevo will be under UN administration, Mostar under European Union administration. The Bosnian Presidency will be given one-third of the territories. So far, we have not managed to overcome the issue of territories. In the coming days, the United States and Russia are going to talk actively with the conflicting sides in order to be able to see whether the negotiating process can be continued. We will then meet again at the end of this month or the beginning of March. Progress in the talks: That means that I can look somebody in the eye and say that we are closer to peace than we were on Friday, at the beginning of the talks. No, I could not say that. Therefore, we now have the agreement that Sarajevo will be under UN administration, but we do not have an agreement that we will take Sarajevo by storm first.

[Karadzic] We have invested a great effort to give the Muslim Republic first 30 percent and then 33 percent of the territory. However, they have expanded their demand to 15 more towns, seven from the Croats and eight from the Serbs. It is obvious that they have rejected the plan of the European Union. They are using the method of delaying in order to gain time and cause military intervention with a view of improving the situation in and around Sarajevo. This is why they have

rejected the plan on Sarajevo that was accepted a few days ago in cooperation with Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

We must stress here that the Muslims are not taking peace seriously and that the threats by the international community are encouraging the Muslims not to sign peace but to continue fighting. If they fight for territories legitimately then nobody can guarantee 33.33 percent to them. They are gambling.

As regards threats, they are going to threaten, whatever we do, because our behavior did not cause these threats. The reason for the NATO threats is NATO itself. Problems within NATO are the reason for the threats.

Besides, Mr. Juppe, French minister of foreign affairs who is trying to pull the United States into the chaos and push it into the conflict, is trying to compromise NATO. If NATO interferes in a conflict on one side, this is the end of NATO.

We can completely guarantee the security of those people who are working on humanitarian aid in the republic of Srpska.

Karadzic Threatens To Secede

LD1302094794 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 0900 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] The ethnic Serbian leader says ethnic Serbians will unilaterally secede with territory they hold if the Muslims continue to reject the latest map dividing Bosnia into three states. Radovan Karadzic made the statement after peace talks in Geneva ended in deadlock on Saturday.

Silajdzic 'Agreed To Reorganize' B-H

AU1302141094 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 13 Feb 94

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Geneva, Feb 13 (AFP)—The mainly Moslem Bosnian Government is ready to cut a deal for peace without trying to exploit NATO's air strike threat to revive its dream of a full multi-ethnic state, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told AFP. "We have agreed to reorganize our country," he said in an interview late Saturday [12 February] in Geneva.

He was answering questions about the Moslems "bottom line"—their minimal demands as the West finally takes decisive steps to end the 22-month-old Bosnian war. Washington has presented itself as the savior of the Moslems.

The latest round of E.C.-UN-mediated peace talks ended here Saturday without any progress as direct US and Russian diplomacy took over with the clock ticking on NATO's deadline for Serbs to end their siege of Sarajevo. If heavy weapons are not withdrawn by midnight next Sunday, NATO warplanes will destroy the guns.

The Bosnians insist on the idea of a united Bosnia but this would be under the already accepted formula of three ethnic mini-states, one each for the warring Moslems, Serbs and Croats. Bosnia became independent in April 1992 as a state without ethnic divisions.

The main remaining problem in the formula, which allocates one-third of Bosnia to the Moslems, is the 15 areas claimed by the Moslems but held now by either Croats or Serbs. Silajdzic said he wanted these areas "to be demilitarized and put under UN administration until we stop the war." This would apparently be a way of bypassing the bitterly intractable disputes over places like Zvornik in eastern Bosnia. Zvornik, on the border with Serbia, has been described by one analyst here as the "Serbs' Golan Heights," a strategic town they would never give up.

Silajdzic is equally stubborn about Zornik, one of the prime sites of ethnic cleansing, where the 70 percent non-Serbian population was driven out. "Those still alive," Silajdzic said bitterly, must one day return. "We must not accept gains by force," he said.

He said, however, that the Bosnian Government understood that the Americans, the driving force behind the NATO initiative, have not given them a carte blanche for re-taking territory.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Saturday here expressed concern about the advantage Moslem infantry will soon have. "Moslems have three times more numerous infantry than the Serbs. Serbian weaponry was the element of strategic balance. If we put our heavy weaponry under (UN) control, then the Moslem infantry should be under control too," he said. But infantry and light arms are not mentioned in the NATO ultimatum issued February 9.

Asked if his troops would take advantage of the situation, Silajdzic said emphatically: "They will not." He said the Bosnians would not risk their credibility.

Silajdzic said the outlines for peace have become clear. NATO's military pressure has been matched by a geopolitical forcing that leaves the Serbs little choice but to stop the war. For instance, the neighboring patron of the Bosnian Serbs, Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic is a man "condemned to peace," Silajdzic said. International economic sanctions have put Serbia in a position where Milosevic can not be defiant. "I think he's dragging that country into an abyss," Silajdzic said.

Russia, anxious to share in the peacemaking role with the United States, is also expected to pressure Bosnian Serbs to compromise, analysts here said.

Silajdzic said NATO's active involvement had restored "a balance of power." "There is a recognition that superpowers must lead and that not being involved eventually leads to dangerous situations where loss of life and resources is inevitable," he said.

But he still described himself as a disillusioned man. "We have sanctions (arms embargo on former Yugoslavia), we have shells coming in and we have grey-haired children (in Sarajevo from the long siege). What more could there be, an atomic bomb?" he asked.

Karadzic Accepts Proposal on Union

AU1302195894 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Interview with Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded; in English with superimposed translation into Serbo-Croatian]

[Text] [Correspondent] Would you please be so kind as to comment on Lord Owen's statement to the effect that you have agreed to the new proposal on the Bosnian union? According to that proposal, the Serbs would not have the right to leave the Bosnian union.

[Karadzic] No, we have accepted the Bosnian union, but according to the Muslim-Serbian declaration, we have the right to leave it whenever we wish. We may be within the union or outside it. If at any given moment this is easier for reaching peace, we are going to accept the union as well.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the danger of air strikes is greater or smaller as compared to the situation two days ago?

[Karadzic] This has never depended on our behavior. This is an internal problem of the NATO pact.

Berisha Hails NATO Deadline, Offers Facilities

AU1102214994 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The president of the republic's spokesman reports that President of the Republic Sali Berisha hailed NATO's ultimate decision to undertake air strikes if the 10-day deadline to withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo is not respected or if further bombardments of this city take place, with the conviction that this decision will contribute to accelerating the establishment of peace in the Republic of Bosnia. Berisha also stressed that Albania reconfirms its offer of airport facilities that NATO may need to accomplish its missions within the UN framework.

He also considered the U.S. Administration's decision to recognize the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as important for stability in the region and stressed that the resolution of the contradictions between our two neighbors, Greece and Macedonia, regarding the name and symbols, is in the interests not only of the bilateral relations of these countries but also of stability in the south of the Balkans.

Serreqi Views Geneva Talks on Bosnia Crisis

AU1102220794 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi by Aferdita Sokoli in Tirana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sokoli] Mr. Minister, what did your participation in the Geneva meeting achieve?

[Serreqi] An open discussion was held there. Every minister presented his own options and ideas regarding the crisis. Since this meeting coincided with the NATO meeting and the fact that many more important decisions other than the mandate of this conference were expected, it is understandable that the importance of this conference was diminished and somewhat reduced to an informal exchange of opinions.

The Albanian side, of course, presented its own opinions and options, stressing that the choices suggested so far, particularly the division of Bosnia, offer neither peace nor a peaceful solution to the region. At the same time, this is a precedence with unforeseen consequences.

The meeting discussed at length the embargo, its application, and the economic consequences. We were very categorical that Albania, as one of the countries that has applied the embargo most rigorously and as one of the countries that is most affected by the embargo, insists that this embargo continues, as the only possibility and the only measure that the international community has so far implemented against Serbia. Its handling and the opinions to facilitate or abolish it should be solved along with other very important elements of the crisis, such as solving the problem of Albanians in Kosova and elsewhere.

[Sokoli] Since the two meetings coincided, how did the participating sides react?

[Serreqi] The participants did not maintain the same stance. Of course, we favored the already known position that Albania is deeply convinced that the international community, NATO, and the United Nations should restore its credibility and give a clear testimony that concrete measures should be taken against the aggressor.

[Sokoli] What about the Greek reaction?

[Serreqi] Of course, it is already well known that the Greek position was completely different from ours.

Berisha, Rugova Discuss Clinton Talks

AU1302200494 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Albanian President Sali Berisha held a meeting with Ibrahim Rugova, president of the republic of Kosova. Both presidents assessed as very fruitful and useful the meeting of Mr. Rugova with President Clinton and the talks he held at the Department of State. They pointed out that these talks are a clear expression of a proper understanding of the necessity to solve the problem of Kosova on the part of President Clinton's administration.

The difficult situation of the Albanians in Kosova and the situation in the region were at the focus of the Berisha-Rugova meeting. Both presidents expressed full support for NATO's decision on the ultimatum and are of the opinion that the recognition of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the United States contributes to the stability in the south of the Balkans.

Zhelev Statement on Air Strikes Reported

AU1302175094 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] On 13 February President Zhelyu Zhelev departed for Brussels, where he will sign the documents regarding joining the Partnership for Peace initiative. This is how he described prior to the departure his position regarding NATO's ultimatum related to eventual air strikes against the Serbian positions around Sarajevo:

[Begin Zhelev recording] Our position is clear and unchanged. One must remember that we are not involved in the decisions and in the actions. Consequently, posing the question whether Bulgaria supports or opposes the air strikes is unfair to Bulgaria.

We participate very actively in the embargo. In this sphere we have a categorical commitment to the policy of the international community. However, we cannot do more than this because we are a Balkan country. If Yugoslavia was located say, in the Apennines or in the Pyrenees, rather than in the Balkans, then we could assume a more categorical position, or send Blue Helmets there. However, now we cannot do even this. We appeal to all Balkan states also to refrain from military participation in this conflict. [end recording]

In an interview for Radio Bulgaria earlier today President Zhelev declared that Bulgaria cannot remain outside the Partnership for Peace initiative, which encompasses all new democracies. According to him, this initiative is an important step toward our regular membership in NATO. According to President Zhelev, sooner or later Russia will also join this initiative under the force of the natural development of affairs.

Mr. Zhelev pointed out that there is no reason for any confrontation between the new democracies and Russia and especially between Bulgaria and Russia. If in Bulgaria there are certain circles—communist, neocommunist, or postcommunist—who view our joining NATO as a confrontation with Russia they do not understand the historical development of the process, the president said.

Zhelev Asked To Maintain Nonintervention Stance

AU1002170494 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Nikolay Slatinski, chairman of the Parliamentary National Security Commission, today sent a letter to President Zhelev in which he states that during the past few days increasingly militarist statements are being made and decisions adopted in connection with the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bulgaria advocates seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis and has repeatedly declared its firm resolve not to intervene in any form in the events taking place in former Yugoslavia. At this critical juncture, any change in the Bulgarian position is absolutely impossible, Slatinski emphasizes in his letter.

Nikolay Slatinski appeals to the president to employ his constitutional powers more resolutely with a view to achieving greater coordination and integration of the efforts of the political elite in the legislative and executive powers to defend the national position on the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

National Assembly Approves 1994 Budget

AU1202172994 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Today, 11 February, the National Assembly gave its approval to the 1994 budget bill at its first reading.

The budget is austere, and its defense by the parliamentary majority was flaccid and unconvincing, Ivan Kostov declared on behalf of the parliamentary group of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces]. He added—I quote his words: It is so because it is not proposed by a responsible political force and a stable executive power with clear economic policies. The budget is connected with an increase in the tax burden, which is not a gesture toward private business and the population. [no reference to close of quotation as heard]

According to Nora Ananieva, leader of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] parliamentary group, the budget, in its adopted interim form, contains a number of chances both for various social strata in the country and for Bulgaria to obtain foreign financing.

Stefan Bozhilov of the New Alliance for Democracy declared that the imperfections in the budget are due to the legacy of communist rule.

The Rights and Freedoms Movement positively assessed the budget, despite the failure of the privatization process so far.

The final adoption of the budget is tied up with many demands relating to the structural reform, the social sphere, and science and education.

Havel Supports NATO Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD1302154694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1500 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Excerpt] At a news conference held in Bangkok in Thailand today, Czech President Vaclav Havel supported the stance of NATO, which threatens to carry out air strikes against Bosnian Serbs units unless they pull out their heavy artillery weapons from the vicinity of Sarajevo before 21 February.

At the same time, he expressed a hope that NATO was serious about this threat and that those whom the threat concerns are aware of it. President Havel said that his talks with Thai representatives were successful. [passage omitted]

Klaus Questions Effectiveness of Air Strikes

LD1102094294 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 0600 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus has questioned the effectiveness of possible air strikes against Bosnia. Speaking at a news conference of the Civic Democratic Party yesterday, he emphasized once again that this civil war should be solved not by external interference but by internal settlement. Klaus was skeptical in particular about air force deployment. He felt that, in humane terms, this is unfair. Given this type of civil war, in which there are no fronts or clearly defined positions of the armies, any global solutions, and air strikes, in particular, pose a threat of far greater massacres and catastrophes, he asserted.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Sarajevo Massacre

AU1202165094 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 9 Feb 94 p 3

[CTK report: "Intervention Would Be an Extreme Remedy"]

[Text] Prague—Czech diplomatic policy considers air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be an extreme means of exerting pressure that may contribute to resolving some of the specific issues but, obviously, cannot act as a substitute for an overall political solution to the conflict. This point of view is contained in a statement from the Czech Foreign Ministry issued yesterday by its Press Department. The Foreign Ministry is extremely alarmed by recent developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It considers the Saturday [5 February] massacre of the civilian population in Sarajevo to be an extreme manifestation of brutality. The UN Security Council, of which the Czech Republic is a nonpermanent member, has already adopted a resolution that makes it possible to use air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina in strictly specified cases. The tragedy in Sarajevo's market should finally induce all three warring factions to display a real political interest in resolving the conflict around the negotiating table, declares the Czech Foreign Ministry's statement.

Parliamentary Committee Cancels Libya Trip

LD1102181094 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Jiri Payne, chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech parliament, has canceled his trip to Libya. Our parliamentary correspondent Milan Repka reports.

[Repka] Jiri Payne should have left for a two-day official visit to Libya today. According to our information, he decided not to go. Deputy Chairman Jan Kasal told Czech radio that the Chamber's leadership did not cancel any foreign trips.

Pavel Seifer, deputy from the Liberal Social Union, said that, in his view, this indicates the Civic Democratic Party's [ODS] preparation to quietly dismiss Payne from the post of the chairman of the Chamber's Foreign Committee. But ODS press spokeswoman Jana Petrova denied this. She told Czech radio that the ODS leadership proposed nothing of the kind to Payne.

Regarding the connection between Payne's pronouncements during his visit to the United States and the abolition of his trip to Libya, Petrova said that she did not know why Payne was not going to Libya.

A meeting of the Chamber of Deputies is due to open on 15 February. It is likely that a proposal to dismiss the present chairman of the foreign committee from his post will be submitted there.

1993 Exports to Visegrad Four Reported

AU1002172294 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 9 Feb 94 p 14

[Article by Gustav Krch and Jan T. Vavra: "The Czech Republic's Exports to the Visegrad Four Countries Last Year Amounted To Almost 93 Billion Korunas"]

[Text] According to the Czech Statistical Office, the Czech Republic returned a surplus foreign trade balance last year with all of the other Visegrad Four countries.

Foreign trade turnover with Hungary increased by 15.9 percent, compared with 1992, while imports from Hungary increased by more than 50 percent, compared with 1992. On the other hand, exports to and imports from Poland declined, and overall foreign trade turnover fell by 10 percent.

Exports to the Visegrad Four countries in 1993 amounted to 93.982 billion korunas [Kc], which is almost one-quarter of their overall volume. Our imports from the Visegrad Four states amounted to Kc79.270 billion (21.6 percent of Czech imports). Naturally, Slovakia accounted for most of our turnover. Exports amounted to Kc74.628 billion and imports to Kc65.017 billion. Goods worth Kc10.470 billion were exported to Poland, while exports to Hungary amounted to Kc7.884

billion. On the other hand, imports from Poland reached Kc9.273 billion and from Hungary Kc5.003 billion.

The Visegrad Four countries will in the future be members of the Central European Free Trade Association (CEFTA), which should commence operations on 1 January 1998. It will encompass approximately 7,500 different commodities. These are divided into three groups in accordance with the different periods of time involved in breaking down the customs barriers. The first group, where there is already no duty, concerns more than 2,200 products. From the point of view of the percentage of mutual trade, these are less significant products, and removing customs barriers should not influence their ability to compete. The second group contains some 3,700 products. According to the approved agreement, the current duty on these products will be maintained this year; it will be reduced by 66 percent in 1995 and by the remaining 33 percent in 1996. The customs barriers for the last, most sensitive, group will probably be removed in the year 2001. Agricultural products are, in essence, exempt from the CEFTA agreement. Only partial liberalization is envisaged here in the future.

Pentagon Order for Poison Gas Detectors Awaited

AU1002161294 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 8 Feb p 2

[Article by "km": "Pentagon Has Not Yet Taken Delivery of Technical Equipment From the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Prague—Despite the fact that as long ago as last November the U.S. Department of Defense indicated its interest in the chemical instruments used by Czech soldiers to gauge the presence of sarin and yperit in the Gulf war, the Pentagon has not yet taken delivery of this equipment.

The staff of the Press Department at the Czech Ministry of Defense reported that the U.S. side is finishing the text of an agreement on the basis of which the transfer of the equipment is to be executed. The Czech side is ready for the transaction.

The Pentagon, which acknowledged the results of the readings by the Czechoslovak chemical warfare unit from the war against Iraq two years ago, wanted to test the measuring instruments in chemical laboratories in the United States to assess the reliability of the data.

The Pentagon was particularly interested in the prototype for a simple, yet effective instrument for rapid detection of the most dangerous toxic substances of the orgonophosphate type known as Detehit. It also wanted to examine the PCHL-90 portable chemical laboratory and the DP-86 modern digital dosimetric instruments used for detecting radioactive contamination. If the instruments tested well, the Americans would allegedly buy them.

Program Statement of HZDS Deputies

LD1002225294 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 2100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The press agency of the Slovak Republic has succeeded in obtaining a program statement by the signatories of the Alternative of Political Realism within the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]. The signatories gave a briefing on their initiative to members and deputies of the ruling movement at today's session of the HZDS deputies' club in Casta Papiernicka. We quote:

Being aware of the fact that a confrontational policy does not guarantee Slovakia's further positive development and that it is necessary to concentrate the efforts and responsibilities of political forces toward overcoming problems Slovakia has been struggling against, taking into account the inevitability of a political reconciliation in the period preceeding early elections, we propose:

1. To form a government with the participation of the HZDS, the Party of the Democratic Left, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Slovak National Party, and the Alliance of Democrats—without personal participation of the chairmen of those parties and movements.

2. To invite experts without party affiliation to join the government.

We consider it inevitable to return to the movement's original democratic principles and to fulfill its liberal social program.

With the aim of following these aims, we have created the Alternative of Political Realism within the HZDS.

HZDS Deputies' Proposal on New Government

LD1002212694 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 2030 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The press agency of the Slovak Republic has issued a program statement by the signatories of the Alternative of Political Realism within the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]. The signatories gave a briefing on their initiative to members and deputies of the ruling movement at today's session of the HZDS deputies' club in Casta Papiernicka.

They propose to form a government with the participation of the HZDS, the Party of the Democratic Left, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Slovak National Party, and the Alliance of Democrats—without personal participation of the chairmen of the parties and movements in question. They also propose to invite experts without party affiliation to join the government.

The statement issued by the Alternative of Political Realism says that its signatories consider it inevitable to return to the original democratic principles.

This text was signed by 10 HZDS parliament deputies. The Alternative was formed within the framework of the HZDS.

'Alternative Group' Views 'Government of Reason'

LD1002223594 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 2100 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A news conference on the new proposal of the alternative group in the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] was given today by one of the alternative group's 10 representatives, Deputy Peter Tomecek.

[Begin recording] [Tomecek] The alternative of political realism believes that a way out of this situation lies in the possibility of stabilizing the political state of affairs in Slovakia. This will lead to the creation of a government of reason [vlada z rozumu], a so-called wider coalition. Such a government would stabilize the situation in Slovakia until new elections, which should resolve the political situation in Slovakia.

Of course, we tried to discuss the point that, if we want political stability in Slovakia, it would probably not be feasible for top political representatives to enter such a government. We therefore propose that our [HZDS] representatives consider the possibility of having a government without top political representation.

The prime minister accepted the alternatives that had appeared in the press, the so-called four alternatives. On the basis of the manner in which our group presented this appeal—and, of course, because it also concerned him as chairman of the movement and as the top political representative—I think he will present his viewpoint at an extraordinary meeting on Saturday [12 February]. My personal opinion is that, if somebody holds different views, it does not mean that he will leave the movement just because his views are not accepted.

We have been building this movement a long time. We have certain obligations, not only social ones but, of course, also obligations toward this movement. Therefore, I do not suppose the movement will splinter as you have formulated it.

[Correspondent] Will you support the government bill on large-scale privatization?

[Tomecek] Of course, our group intends to support the government bill. [passage omitted]

[Second correspondent] What was the result of voting in the parliamentary club of the HZDS on the resignation of the two deputy chairmen?

[Tomecek] Regrettably, I can announce that the resignations of Vladimir Bajan and of Marian Kelemen were accepted. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meciar on Initiators of New HZDS Platform

LD1102201694 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Martin Bartisek asked Vladimir Meciar, Movement for Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] chairman and prime minister, late this morning to assess the situation brought about by yesterday's publication of an alternative proposal by the deputies and HZDS members.

[Bartisek] Ten members of the HZDS club of deputies to the Slovakian National Council see a certain new solution to the current crisis in an option to create a government of reason, a so-called government of broad coalition. Mr. Prime Minister, people from the HZDS, the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL], the Christian Democratic Party [KDH], the Slovak National Party [SNS], and the Alliance of Democrats are being considered for this—however, without leading figures of those parties.

You will give your view on participating in the government only following tomorrow's session of the HZDS caucus. Nevertheless, could you give us your view now on this proposal?

[Meciar] There are two matters here. One concerns the content of the proposal, and the other one is the way it came about.

At yesterday's session, under the weight of evidence, Mr. Roman Kovac and Jozef Moravcik finally admitted that, without the knowledge of the Movement's political bodies, without the knowledge of the government members, they had held talks with opposition political parties about a different alternative solution.

As they were not strong enough, they attempted to gain support within the HZDS club, and, so far, they have been joined by 10 deputies. This does not mean that all those 10 deputies would vote against the government during a vote of no-confidence in the government. Some of them would, and some would not.

The way they acted contradicts the principles of democracy, it contradicts the HZDS's principles. It is immoral because, during talks, they looked their colleagues straight in the eye, pretending to be friends, and, in fact, they were working for the fall of this government. They must assume political responsibility for this.

The proposal itself assumes the following solution. The first part is to remove political heads from the leadership. This means the political heads of the HZDS and the SNS. Logically, those others are not in the government. And we are in the government not illegitimately but on the basis of election results.

The second part is the formation of such a broad coalition. What will be keeping them together besides material interests? Nothing. This does not have any chance of surviving. Some assume that elections might take place in a year's time—it is not to be expected [passage indistinct]. They would settle their personal, material, and group interests and then would hand over the ransacked state to those who win the elections.

Third, it is the matter for the HZDS bodies to decide whether such a coalition would be viable. All its district congresses, with the exception of one—and that was more a technical matter—expressed their support for the government. This means that, if deputies are taking such a stance, they are acting against the resolutions of their district congresses, which are binding for them. There is yet another factor here: The HZDS did not express its interest in participating in any such government. My personal view is not to participate in such a government, not to participate in something that is being prepared under the pretext of the government's reconstruction if we want to have clean hands for the next elections.

[Bartisek] The Party of the Democratic Left admits the possibility of a broad coalition. However, this has to be discussed by the political entities concerned. We have learned that, following your departure from Papiernicka [where HZDS deputies held session] yesterday, you held a telephone conversation with Mr. Weiss [SDL chairman], above all about the amendment of the privatization law. However, a proposal was also voiced about taking a vote of confidence in the government at the same time. What is the reason for such a link?

[Meciar] This involves several things. First, this concerns system measures in the sphere of privatization that are to be implemented. Second, all of the opposition parties insist that we do not enjoy support in the parliament. They criticize the government and deprive the government of tools to carry out economic policy. This is like someone giving you a job but keeping the purse in his hands. This is nonsense. The government is expected to take responsibility, but the tools of responsibility are held by someone else. So, if they want to cripple the government economically to prevent government activities, let them to do it immediately. If the government enjoys confidence, they should not deprive the government of tools it can use in the sphere of politics.

Regarding the linking of confidence in the government to the adoption of the law on privatization, no final decision on this matter has been made so far—roughly 50 percent are in favor and 50 percent against. Let us wait until tomorrow to see the decision made by the HZDS leadership.

Meciar To Seek Dismissal of Kovac, Moravcik

LD1102153694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar indicated that he would strive for the dismissal of Deputy Prime Minister Roman Kovac and Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik. He did not rule out that he would link the voting on the privatization bill to the vote of confidence in the government. Kovac and Moravcik, who head the alternative platform within the ruling Movement for a

Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], proposed to form a new government in which opposition parties would also participate. However, it would be a government without Meciar. The prime minister also claimed that, of the 10 HZDS deputies who joined the Alternative of Political Realism, not all of them would vote for voicing no confidence in his government.

Speaking about the Alternative's proposal regarding a broad coalition government without political leaders, he remarked that the real purpose of this was to remove political leaders from the government coalition between the HZDS and the Slovak National Party. Meciar said that a broad coalition would not last because the parties would be bound together only by material interest.

Moravcik Determined Not To Resign

LD1202184394 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1700 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] An extraordinary meeting of the HZDS [Movement for a Democratic Slovakia] leadership is being held in Modra near Bratislava today. The meeting is to discuss differences of views that have clearly taken shape within the past few days. Our colleague Renata Havranova, editor of the PRACE daily, reports:

[Havranova] The extraordinary session of the HZDS national leadership is to decide today about the stance to be taken by the ruling movement on solving a serious political crisis in Slovakia—the crisis that was brought about by the HZDS itself, with some SNS [Slovak National Party] deputies, by obstructions in the [Slovak] parliament. Since early this morning, the Modra hotel has been totally closed to journalists.

[HZDS] press spokeswoman Ivana Salczerova confirmed that Prime Minister [Vladimir] Meciar had taken the floor, as he had promised, to give his view on the Alternative of Political Realism formed in Papiernicka, which is being supported by nine deputies—one of the original 10 signatories has withdrawn its signature—and two government members, [Deputy Prime Minister] Roman Kovac and [Foreign Minister] Jozef Moravcik. Meciar is said to have described once again their appeal to immediately form a government of broad coalition without political heads as an immoral, undemocratic appeal contradicting the movement's principles. According to Meciar, the action taken by Moravcik and Kovac is a dirty trick, not only on him personally but also on the entire government and all of its members.

This afternoon, journalists came across Jozef Moravcik walking in the streets of this little town. He confirmed to them that the discussion was very sharp and that all those who had joined the Alternative were probably going to be pacified by the [HZDS] leadership. He also said that a proposal was voiced asking him and Roman Kovac to resign. He is determined not to resign. According to Minister Moravcik, whatever decision is made at today's session of the leadership, there is no doubt that the shaping of views has already begun, and it is no longer possible to halt it.

'Alternative' Heads Refuse To Resign

LD1302163694 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1500 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] [Announcer] Following the debacle at the extraordinary meeting of the republican leadership of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] on Saturday [12 February], journalists were addressed in Bratislava today by Deputy Prime Minister Roman Kovac, Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik, and HZDS deputy Vladimir Bajan. Our correspondent Renata Havranova, editor of the daily PRACE, reports.

[Havranova] Both Kovac and Moravcik rejected Meciar's accusation of cowardice and an attempt to break up the HZDS behind his back. The prime minister's claim that they betrayed him by assuring him of their loyalty before bringing in the Alternative of Political Realism is untrue.

On the contrary, Kovac stressed that he spent three and a half hours explaining to Meciar where the causes for the differing views rested. Moravcik added that loyalty is irrelevant in the process of solving a serious political crisis. Both of them rejected the possibility of resigning and said that their resignation would amount to admitting mistakes. But they naturally reckon that they will be dismissed.

They said that the proposal that they should be expelled from the HZDS was a poor indication of the democracy existing in the movement, which meant to represent the freedom of thought. The verdict that they breached the [HZDS] charter is also unsubstantiated. They did not organize the Alternative as a faction because the charter bans factions. Deputy Bajan said that, in order to determine what the next action in parliament will be, he would have to establish what was happening to the deputies who support the Alternative before and after the leadership meeting. What he probably meant were the so-far-unconfirmed reports that some of them—for example, Deputies [Martin] Zingor and [Anna] Draxlerova—were even threatened with physical violence.

Speaking about the government of broad coalition without top political leaders, they said that, no matter how absurd this idea appeared to be, the opposition accepted it and that this trend would continue in Slovakia. The government posts should be filled with real pragmatists, even unaffiliated ones, capable of bringing stability to Slovakia. All of them said that early elections were the best possible solution to the situation that has arisen. The solution they proposed has only speeded up the whole process of sorting out the problems in society. According to Kovac and Moravcik, expectations that the government might be dismissed as early as 16 February, at the parliament's session, appear to be unrealistic for the time being.

HZDS Executive To Decide on Early Elections

LD1302105594 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 0830 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] In a secret vote at Modra yesterday, the republican leadership of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] expressed no confidence in Deputy Prime Minister Roman Kovac and Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik and rejected the Alternative of Political Realism. The HZDS political executive will make a decision on early elections and will also assess the possibility of initiating a referendum.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar stated that Kovac and Moravcik were nominated to their government posts by the HZDS, and, if their aim is to cause the movement's disintegration, they should have the courage to leave voluntarily. At the moment, he is not considering proposing their removal to the president but will wait to see what they are going to do.

According to Meciar, the HZDS is monolithic, functional, and capable of fighting on. In his opinion, the image presented by the signatories of the alternative is leading to destruction. The prime minister also rejected the idea of a government of wider coalition and stated that it could only become the government of wider corruption. His government does not intend to resign, and, if the opposition parties are thinking of expressing no confidence in the government or in the prime minister, they will have to be prepared for what will follow, Meciar said. In his view, the current political crisis in Slovakia is not real but has been provoked artificially by political parties fighting for power in the privatization process.

In an interview with a reporter for the Slovak press agency [TASR], Jozef Moravcik said that, while he can, he will try to put across the views held by the Alternative for Political Realism within the HZDS. If the signatories of the alternative have their party membership withdrawn, then, according to Moravcik, they will have to continue their political work outside the movement.

Roman Kovac told TASR that he does not intend to resign his position of deputy prime minister.

Boross Cited on Use of Airspace for B-H Raids

LD1102173594 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] NATO aircraft cannot use Hungary's airspace in case of an aerial bombing attack against Serbs, the BBC quotes Prime Minister Peter Boross. According to the Budapest corrrespondent, the Hungarian Government is concerned that by allowing NATO to use Hungarian airspace for bombing attacks, Hungary would become involved in the war in Yugoslavia, and that the step would also harm the situation of Hungarians in Vojvodina.

Editorial Views U.S. 'Threat' on FRY Ties

AU1002204894 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Endre Aczel editorial: "Passing on Responsibility"]

[Text] If we strip certain issues to the bare facts, we will find that the United States of America has actually threatened Hungary lest it become closer to the rump Yugoslavia.

The threat was contained in U.S. Foreign Affairs Spokesman McCurry's statement according to which the United States "views all actions that might ease Serbia's isolation with deepest concern."

Before saying this, McCurry listed "plans" to broaden communication between Budapest and Belgrade. Plans that are known to Washington and condemned by it.

We know that it is not usually inconsequential when a very large country says to a very small country that it is "deeply concerned" about what the latter is doing or is preparing to do. The lightest of such consequences is a reprimand. Foreign Minister Jeszenszky (or the Hungarian Government) has received this. In nearly four years, it has not had such a conflict with any western power, so this in itself indicates the gravity of the event.

However, after all this introduction, what I have to say is that the Government of the United States is acting unjustly when it calls the renewed Hungarian-Serbian dialogue a source of danger that might "undermine" the UN embargo policy afflicting Yugoslavia. Washington's strictness with us is nothing other than camouflage of its own (many times proved) lack of a concept, a kind of searching for responsibility elsewhere.

So, who is actually "undermining" the embargo policy here?

Hungary, which is heroically adhering to the embargo policy that is far too costly for it, was only an observer, rather than a participant, in the German-French efforts that actually held out the possibility of ending the sanctions, providing that the Serbs fulfill certain conditions. However, without expressing its opinion, the United States itself was also an observer. (At that time, Clinton was very much occupied with NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Community], and GATT....) Therefore, the end of the sanctions policy did not even originate in Hungary. This makes it even more interesting that, at the time, Washington did not reprimand Paris and Bonn, and why it did not later reprimand the Bosnian Muslims who swept the entire promising German-French plan (including the already implemented Serbian and Croatian allowances) off the table, and this is how the sanctions policy remained in force.

Well, ever since, we have not seen any viable ideas from Clinton and his team as to what should really be done. (We now know what we should not do. As if the outcome of the south Slav crisis depended on Hungarian-Serbian customs and border cooperation....) What is even worse, America proved to be completely unable to form or coordinate the West's and NATO's Bosnia policy. This whole issue is a tale of the appearance and widening of gaps between the U.S., French, British, and German viewpoints. Seemingly, the Americans have always been more radical than the Europeans but, in reality, they would not for anything have moved away from the periphery of events. Whatever happens now, the American role would not become better in retrospect.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Violence in B-H

LD1102215894 Warsaw PAP in Polish 2047 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Warsaw, 11 Feb—The Foreign Affairs Ministry has made the following statement available to the Polish Press Agency:

"The Polish Government resolutely condemns all acts of violence taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including in particular, the terrorist shooting of the civilian population in Sarajevo.

In the opinion of the Polish Government, the stand of the NATO states, as presented in the decisions taken during the North Atlantic Council session of 9 February this year, is a balanced one toward all sides in the conflict. It takes into account, in the right way, the role of the United Nations and meets its resolutions half-way. It takes into consideration the necessity of insuring the complete security of the UN forces and that of other observation and humanitarian missions that find themselves on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

This last matter is of particular importance for Poland in view of the presence of a Polish contingent in the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The Polish Government shares the stand of the NATO states, and expresses the hope that the present heightening of the conflict can be defused without the need to use force."

NATO Concept No 'Protection' From East

LD1202210094 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] [Announcer] Jerzy Milewski, the deputy national defense minister and head of the National Security Office attached to the president, told the Polish Radio First Program that the Partnership for Peace agreement signed in Brussels recently by Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak contains very positive elements with regard to our country's joining the NATO Treaty structures, but at this stage it, unfortunately, does not guarantee political security for us.

[Begin Milewski recording] I consider the Partnership for Peace program very good as a transitional measure that will speed up and facilitate Poland's full membership in NATO, membership as an equal partner, and as a partner equally valuable to our future NATO partners.

The Partnership for Peace program has, however, been criticized. It has been criticized by the highest state officials in the country, by President Lech Walesa and by Foreign Affairs Minister Andrzej Olechowski, as a program that does not give us the necessary political protection, protection needed at this particular moment against the growing threat, now only political and verbal, from the East. Increasingly frequently we hear from Moscow voices that give indications that a return to imperial, expansionist policies is increasingly probable. Because at the moment this threat is only political and is expressed in words, not in deeds or military action, and thank God, there is no military threat yet, today we only need political protection. The transitional period when our Army adapts itself to NATO can and must take a few years. [end recording]

Pawlak's Policy Called 'Entirely Independent'

LD1102142794 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1105 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Michal Strak, head of the Council of Ministers office, has denied that Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak allegedly consulted with the president on his decisions concerning personnel changes in the top posts at the Finance Ministry. Minister Strak said during the "Morning Signals" program that any suggestions that the prime minister succumbed to pressure from outside were untrue.

[Begin recording] [Strak] I can say that the prime minister is conducting an entirely independent policy, and any suspicions that he is guided by anyone from outside are simply preposterous. I am surprised that these suspicions appear at all.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is the coalition agreement going to be renegotiated?

[Strak] I think that the coalition agreement is a good document, and I think the political part is being implemented. The economic part should be implemented as well, although the matter is much more difficult. There is great difficulty in reconciling what is necessary for maintaining a certain macroeconomic balance, which has been achieved in Poland and which is appreciated by the government, with the necessity to meet the most severe and urgent public needs.

Public expectations in this domain found their expression in the demonstration. We are treating this event with full seriousness because people who took part in it carry the burden of economic change in Poland on their backs. There is undoubtedly a need to reduce the burden, to make it lighter, although this is an extremely difficult task. I think this government has been aware of the difficulties. Some decisions are made within the government's abilities, but we are fully aware that these decisions do not resolve the issue. [end recording]

Candidates for Finance Minister Considered

WS0902121794 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by J.B.L.: "Who After Borowski?"]

[Text] Who is the new candidate of the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] for the post of finance minister? This was the most closely guarded secret of the left. Most probably it is an SLD man, even though this information, passed by Reuter (which quoted Aleksander Kwasniewski) was

denied by Zbigniew Siemiatkowski. It is also certain that no one queries SLD's right to appoint its own man to this position. It is not at all known, however, whether, just like Marek Borowski, he would be simultaneously a minister and the deputy prime minister responsible (even theoretically) for the entire economy.

On Monday [7 February] evening Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak said on television that he would accept the resignation submitted by Marek Borowski, despite signals on the part of SLD discouraging him from doing so. He did not say, however, when the finance minister would stop work. It is not known, therefore, whether the Tuesday session of the Council of Ministers is the last one with the participation of the deputy prime minister and finance minister. It is just as possible as the version in line with which he is supposed to stay at this post until the Budget Law is passed by the Sejm. As we have learned, such doubts are also expressed by other government members as well. The politicians of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] voiced the opinion that Borowski should remain in his position until the work on the budget is completed, which seems to be a logical solution: The prime minister confirmed that the government would defend the budget in the version that has been submitted in the Sejm.

It is easier to answer the following question: Who is SLD's candidate for the successor of Marek Borowski? We have learned that Professor Grzegorz Kolodko, with whom talks were held when Waldemar Pawlak was selecting people for his government, is out of the question. At that time, the conditions submitted by Kolodko were not accepted; it would be even more difficult to agree to them now. It is also hard to suppose that he would himself be interested in taking over this difficult post in a situation that is far more complex than it was last autumn.

SLD will also not propose Henryk Chmielak for this post. Right now he is the first deputy of the finance minister—he holds the rank of a secretary of state. The list, which was not agreed with SLD and which Aleksander Luczak submitted to the Belvedere in October 1993, included the name of Chmielak as a candidate for the head of the Finance Ministry. However, SLD probably wants someone who would be linked with the party as much as Marek Borowski; this condition is not met by the present deputy minister. For the very same reason (as well as a few others) none of the members of the present leadership of the ministry come into play.

The natural cadre reserve for any party are its deputies. However, as early as last autumn it was clear that the reserve bench of both coalition members was rather short; it has become even shorter since that time.

However, on the list of SLD Sejm deputies it is not easy to find someone who could fill the position vacated by Marek Borowski. Among the members of the Budget Committee, who are naturally most familiar with the problems of the state's finances, only Professor Jozef Kaleta is an acknowledged economist; however, this acknowledgement is rather related to the previous epoch. He is probably not a sufficiently strong candidate as well, but according to the information that we have obtained, SLD leaders believe that it is a character of considerable authority that can constitute a counterbalance for the PSL-dominated part of the government.

Perhaps it will be Ireneusz Sekula, head of the Main Customs Office? He once was a deputy prime minister (in the Rakowski government), responsible for the economy. Aleksander Kwasniewski met with him yesterday morning. However, we learned from a well-informed source that Sekula is not the politician that the SLD leaders spoke about.

SLD Adopted PSL Policy of Media 'Silence'

WS1002151294 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Feb 94 p 1

[Article by E.Cz., E.K., and Ma.S.: "Efficiency of Policy of Silence; SLD Applies PSL Methods"]

[Text] *The communique issued after Tuesday's [8 February] talks between the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] and the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD], which was general and apparently laconic, is what we wanted to see the most—one can hear such statements in SLD circles. During the talks, both sides confirmed that the coalition will continue, they said they would jointly support the government's budget draft, and they also said they decided the Finance Ministry will remain in the SLD domain. The conditions which had been set earlier by SLD will probably be the subject of further talks and negotiations. The name of the new finance minister (who will also be a deputy prime minister for economic affairs) will be announced by SLD prior to the second reading of the budget draft, that is to say next week at the latest.*

It seems that SLD leaders' serious fears concerning the chances for maintaining the governing coalition, were caused first of all by the prime minister's television appearance where he was critical of a straight, liberal continuation of economic policies, and at the same time he stressed the need to include social needs in the budget to a greater extent. The second reason was Lech Walesa's involvement in the crisis. He reminded everyone of his constitutional powers and of a possibility of presidential rules. SLD was relieved to see the compromise with PSL, despite Marek Borowski's exclusion from the government being the price for the compromise. According to SLD Spokesman Zbigniew Siemiatkowski, the president's involvement at the last moment proves that if there was anybody to gain from the crisis in the government, it was the president.

Andrzej Zakrzewski, chief of the president's Political Service Bureau, when asked to comment on the view that the president—by his signing of Borowski's resignation—had an impact on the speedy signing of the new agreement within the coalition, said that Lech Walesa

"does not get involved in the coalition's affairs, but he simply takes note of what the coalition and the government 'produce.'" When asked whether he thinks the president accepted Borowski's resignation very fast, Zakrzewski replied: "The president is always fast...."

Apart from three fundamental issues—the coalition's stability, support for the government's budget draft, and leaving the finance minister and deputy prime minister in the domain of SLD—no other topics were discussed.

But SLD hopes it will be able to return to talks with PSL concerning the conditions that had been set earlier which—among others—pertained to defining the powers of deputy prime ministers, consultations within the coalition concerning appointments of new local governors, and establishing the post of government spokesman. According to SLD, the most important thing right now is to enact the budget in the form proposed by the government; Marek Borowski—who after his resignation will return to work as a Sejm deputy in the Sejm Economic Policy, Budget, and Finance Commission—will "protect" the budget draft on SLD's behalf.

In its contacts with the mass media, SLD decided to apply PSL's method. SLD says it was a bad idea to be open in supplying information to journalists during the most recent conflict. "Right now, we will talk less and do more"—SLD decided. While recognizing the efficiency of PSL's silence, left-wing politicians intend to closely watch the political scene and wait for PSL's next move.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, a leader of SLD, refused to give any information to journalists yesterday. PSL politicians say he was full of bitterness. According to unofficial information, a joint principle of commenting on the recent events as little as possible, was adopted during the evening coalition talks. There are probably no chances for establishing a post of press spokesman for the government. Government circles say that establishing such a post would mean that the prime minister's information policy is different than the government's.

Situation of Walesa, PSL, SLD After Conflict

WS1102105994 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by Kazimierz Groblewski: "SLD Is Losing—President Will Gain"]

[Text] Lech Walesa waited out the coalition crisis in the mountains. He will return to see a slightly different political configuration; this situation seems to be more favorable to him.

The coalition has survived the crises, but it has changed as well. The Polish Peasant Party [PSL] gained; Prime Minister Pawlak won the position as the real leader of the coalition. The Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] lost this round quite noticeably.

These Facts Will Strengthen the President

The prime minister is very polite toward the Belweder; he has accepted its rules of the game, at least as far as the filling of the deputy ministerial posts in the presidential ministries (the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—MSZ, and the Ministry of National Defense) is concerned. He does not demand positions for his party activists; he settles for the promotions of PSL members who are already working in those ministries (examples are the new MSZ deputy minister and the new deputy of the Office of State Protection chief). PSL members are getting high posts in the presidential ministries, which is being kept rather low profile.

SLD wants these posts for its own politicians and it has exerted pressure on Pawlak to achieve that. Now the weakened SLD may take various steps; the possibility cannot be ruled out that, wanting to compensate itself for the recent defeat and improve its mood, it may start an even more vehement campaign to obtain the deputy ministerial posts in the presidential ministries.

So far Pawlak has resisted—he did not want a war with the president. Now he will find it easier to handle the coalition partner's demands. In line with the principle that a precedence that has been set becomes the rule, it may remind the SLD leaders of who calls the shots in the coalition.

The psychological aspect of the conflict in the coalition is also very important.

Pawlak Took SLD Politicians Aback

He turned out to be firm. SLD leaders will now feel greater respect for him and will keep themselves at a distance.

The personal advantage for Lech Walesa, if he decides to run in the presidential elections, is the fact that the position of Aleksander Kwasniewski has been weakened quite considerably. Of course, we still have a long way to go before the elections, and the situation may change more than once. Today Walesa gains the following: Kwasniewski will no longer be treated, also by the mass media, so unequivocally in the good spirit of the current configuration, as the main player, as the "prime minister without portfolio." His image was tarnished quite considerably. The prime minister is Pawlak.

Kwasniewski is "merely" the leader of one of the two coalition groupings—it is the grouping that is today politically weaker at that.

Curbing the Increasing Popularity of Kwasniewski

It is a present that Walesa received from Pawlak a year and a half before the presidential elections. However, it may be the Belweder's mistake not to consider Pawlak as Walesa's future countercandidate in the elections.

The weaker SLD means also one more advantage for the Belweder. In the Army, police, and the special forces the

Belweder and SLD are competing for influence. In this game, which seems to be very important to the president, the weaker SLD becomes, the better for the Belweder. The weakening of SLD after the last conflict may be seen by some employees of those services as an indicator showing where the real and stable authority center is.

One can also say that any conflict in the coalition is favorable to the Belweder because it diverts the interest of the mass media from it.

SLD, PSL Suggest Monetary Policy to NBP

WS1102135494 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11 Feb 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by Renata Wisniewska: "Central Bank or Office?; Experts for the PSL and the SLD Suggest A Different Monetary Policy"]

[Text] *On Tuesday, 8 February, experts for the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] and the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] presented the management of the Polish National Bank [NBP] with a draft of the principles of monetary policies for 1994. According to those principles, the main goals of monetary policies are: lowering the inflation rate by the end of 1994 to the level of 23 percent (in relation to December) and to the level of 27 percent (in relation to midyear), increasing the growth rate in the economy, limiting the unemployment rate, and developing exports. The document conflicts in a fundamental way with a draft of principles presented to the Sejm by the NBP.*

The planned goals listed in the document prepared by the experts for the SLD and the PSL are supposed to be implemented, among other things, through a "real increase in money supply to economic units and to households, at least up to the level of the planned increase in the GDP—that is, up to the level of 169 trillion zlotys [Z]," (the NBP suggests Z155 trillion), "through an appropriate shaping of the interest rates with regard to bank deposits and credits in relation to the inflation rate," "through a flexible shaping of policies on foreign currency rates, which would take into account the inflation rate," and through an increase in the trend to save. The experts think that the state budget's debt due to financing the budget deficit cannot exceed Z35 trillion. It will be implemented by purchasing Treasury notes from the Finance Ministry.

To implement the government proexport policies, the NBP is supposed to increase its contribution to the Corporation for Insurance of Export Credits [KUKE] up to the 25-percent level. In addition, the NBP is supposed to devote part of its foreign currency reserves for the purpose of financing modernization investments in small and medium-size companies.

The coalition experts also write that the central bank will undertake necessary measures aimed at bringing banks back to health, among other things by devoting for that purpose the amount of Z3 trillion; by decreasing obligatory reserves; by purchasing shares, long-term bonds, and bills of exchange; by providing guarantees for deposits; and by refinancing credits. The draft also envisages an increase of the trend to save in zlotys, through the NBP's introduction of the burden of obligatory reserves on foreign-currency deposits. The experts assume that commercial banks will be able to get loans from the NBP mainly in the form of rediscounting credits and pawn credits. The banks' debts incurred in this way would be controlled by the NBP, depending on the monetary situation in the country.

The draft also envisages the NBP's cooperation with the government while establishing a system of lessening the debt burden of economic enterprises. This applies to those companies that are profitable in terms of their productivity. The NBP is supposed to undertake measures for improving the earnings situation and for a restructuring of the companies' indebtedness.

RZECZPOSPOLITA has asked Witold Kozinski (first deputy of the NBP's chairperson) to comment on the proposal submitted by the SLD and PSL experts. According to him, an agreement on increasing the money supply in 1994 and on the NBP's contribution in financing the budget deficit will not be reached at this stage of the talks. W. Kozinski said that an increase in the money supply of Z155 trillion is very large anyway. The Sejm will be an umpire on this issue. If the Sejm adopts an increase in the money supply to Z169 trillion, it will have to bear the responsibility for price increases," Witold Kozinski said [no opening quotes as published].

According to the first deputy of the NBP's chairperson, the draft has many drawbacks. For instance, the NBP's management has already made a decision on increasing its contribution in the capital of KUKE; it also made an appropriate decision on introducing obligatory reserves in foreign-currency accounts. An ordinance on this issue by the NBP's chairperson has been in effect since 31 January of this year. According to the provisions now in effect, the NBP cannot devote part of the foreign-currency reserves to finance modernization investments. It could do this only by borrowing the necessary means on the market. In W. Kozinski's view, there is also a contradiction with regard to basic credits. He stressed that the main goal of the NBP's monetary policies is to lower the inflation rate by the end of 1994 to the level of 23 percent, on the basis of the period from December 1993 to December 1993 [as published], as well as the kind of cooperation in implementing economic policies that would make this goal realistic. Going over the planned increase in money supply to the level above Z155 trillion could take place, assuming the inflation figures will be implemented successfully. According to W. Kozinski, if the practical rate of price increases does not exceed 23 percent on a yearly basis, the NBP will not oppose increasing the money supply to over Z155 trillion, but decisions on this issue should not be made earlier than in the second half of the year.

Minister Discusses Military Needs With WEU

LD1202145394 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1304 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Warsaw, 12 Feb—At Saturday's meeting with Western European Assembly Chairman Dudley Smith, National Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk said that among the most important problems that the Armed Forces of the Polish Republic is facing are the process of restructuring the Army, integration with the European security system, and technical development of the forces that are connected with it.

Kolodziejczyk stated that no breakthrough was made in technological cooperation with the West. Asked by Smith about the budget of the Ministry of National Defense, Kolodziejczyk stated that it was insufficient to maintain the current technical state of the Army and to ensure proper training of the forces. According to Kolodziejczyk, such a budget also precludes an even deployment of the forces, according to the principle of equal security of borders. The Polish minister expressed hope that the Partnership for Peace initiative was not only leading to NATO but also to the WEU [Western European Union].

The chairman of the WEU Assembly, who is participating in a two-day seminar in Poland entitled "The WEU Look at the Security of Central and Eastern European Countries", said in a conversation with Kolodziejczyk that he hoped Poland and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe would be granted affiliated status this coming May. He also stated that he would like central Europe to start to acquire "the same significance as western Europe". [passage omitted]

'Enormous' Solidarity Demonstration in Warsaw

WS1002151394 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Feb 94 pp 1-2

[Article by K.Gr. and P.W.R.: "Against Raises on the Streets of Warsaw; 5 Km of 'Solidarity'"]

[Text] Approximately 40,000 "Solidarity" unionists demonstrated on Wednesday [9 February] in Warsaw against price rises and for salary increases. "Down with communism," "Thieves," "Government go on the dole," they shouted. A "Solidarity" delegation presented Michal Strak, head of the Office of the Council of Ministers [URM], with a petition in which they demanded, among other things, that the budget bill be amended and the packet of bills related to the "Pact on State Enterprise" be passed by 15 March. If this deadline is not met, "Solidarity" Chairman Marian Krzaklewski does not rule out the possibility of a strike. For a while Strak left the premises of URM, but he was heckled and quickly went back inside the building.

"There are 40,000 of us here," announced Krzaklewski as he started the demonstration at Pilsudski Square. As he was in front of the URM building, he estimated that approximately 100,000 people were taking part in the demonstration. It was indeed an enormous demonstration, but the former figure seems to be closer to the truth. The crowd of protesters stretched from the URM building to Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street (approximately 5 km away).

"Those who are in power right now have declared: It does not have to be this way any longer. It does not have to—because it is worse," said Krzysztof Mlodzik, chairman of the Secretariat of Mining and Energy. He warned the authorities that "if they want a conflict with 'Solidarity,' they will have one."

"We do not want to support the perfidious practices that have been deceitfully called privatization," said Tomasz Wojcik, chairman of the Lower Silesia Region; he demanded "giving property to citizens en mass." At the head of the demonstration, Ursus unionists were competing with the supporters of the National Committee. When the former were shouting "Down with judecja [probably reference to the Democratic Union allegedly being dominated by Jews]" and "Down with Walesa," while National Committee supporters were chanting "Solidarity."

"We do not want to die of hunger in line with the election promises," "Sejmocracy should be submitted for file-checking," "Instead of paying too much for electricity, let us chase the communists away from here," "Take your hands out of our pockets," "Nation is working, government is wasting," "Kuron gave soup, Miller showed his behind," "Communists are promising things, nation is suffering hunger," "SdRP-PSL [Social Democracy of the Polish Republic-Polish Peasant Party]: You have given us the games and circus. Now is the time for bread," were only some of the slogans heard during the demonstration.

The most popular slogans were "Down with communism," "Communists—affair mongers," "Communists go to Cuba."

"Where is your honor, where is the fatherland," people shouted in front of the URM, where there is the inscription "Honor, Fatherland."

Lodz Region representatives were carrying an effigy representing Waldemar Pawlak (with horns) and Lech Walesa (wearing a ribbon with the word "Traitor" written on it). The effigy of Pawlak was burned in front of URM. The union members shouted: "Down with Miller, the affair monger" (Leszek Miller is a deputy from Lodz), "Lodz wants jobs, not the dole."

The unionists threw a 1.5-meter red casket over the barriers surrounding URM. They carried, among other things, a black plaque with a white inscription: "The government, rest in peace."

A railway orchestra was playing; one could hear whistles, trumpets; many participants of the demonstration were wearing union caps and shirts.

In a speech in front of URM, Marian Krzaklewski said that the reason for the demonstration was, among other things, the fact that in another year characterized by economic growth, incomes are on the wane. "Solidarity" supports a "market-solidarity" state, and not a state of "capital oligarchy." If the latter is formed, "Solidarity" will overthrow it. Krzaklewski suggested that the work week be reduced by two hours, which he believes would allow us to decrease unemployment by approximately 300,000.

The group of demonstrators from Ursus was not able to continue the demonstration from URM to the Belvedere, where they say "the greatest evil " lies. The determining factor here was the behavior of protesters from Gdansk Region.

Jastrzebie Coal Company Dispute Reported Ended

LD1102141994 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia Network]

[Text] An agreement was reached early this morning between the strike committee and the board of the Jastrzebie Coal Company. The Miners Trade Union, however, has withdrawn from the signing of the protocol.

[Correspondent Adam Sojka] The agreement envisages a 7.2-percent pay increase for January, compared to December last year, and a 10-percent increase for February, as compared to January. Earnings will remain at the February level in March. Moreover, the union side has pledged that it will only use legal means of protest in the future, means that are provided by the law on trade unions.

At the same time, the board announced that it will request the law-enforcement bodies to stop criminal proceedings against people involved in the blockade of the board's offices and radio broadcasting networks in collieries. Both sides have agreed that no pay is due for the period of the strike, and the financial compensation for people who did not work will take place after making up for lost output. The board of the company, however, stipulated that the agreement would come into force when it is signed by all the trade unions. Only the Miners Trade Union refrained from initialling the agreement. At the moment, negotiations are being held concerning this matter. Unofficially, we have learned that the strike may be suspended, possibly even today.

End of Strike Denied

LD1202101994 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 0700 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] The TV "Wiadomosci" and "Panorama" programs carried reports yesterday on the signing of an accord between the board of the Jastrzebie Coal Company [JSW] and the Trade Union of Miners of Poland [ZZGwP], which was to end the strike at the seven mines of this company. Unfortunately, the miners at these mines are still on strike.

Meanwhile, as Romuald Boszko, press spokesman of the protest staff at the JSW, has reported, the signing of this accord has no significance with regard to the course of the strike. The strike is directed, the press spokesman stressed, by the protest staff, the composition of which does not include the ZZGwP. The protest staff, on the other hand, does include three other trade unions: Kontra, Solidarity, and Solidarity '80. The dispatcher at the State Hard Coal Agency in Katowice has confirmed that the work forces have not commenced work at any of the JSW mines.

Beginning at 1500 today, additional talks will take place with the protesting miners at the provisional headquarters of the JSW. As we discovered at the board of the company, a consensus has been reached on 95 percent of the proposals. There is still a lack of accord with regard to compensation for the time spent on strike.

IMF Conditions Fulfilled for Debt Reduction

LD0902192294 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] According to initial data for 1994, Poland has fulfilled the standby agreement reached in November 1992 with the IMF. The fulfillment of this agreement is a condition for a 20-percent reduction—that is. about $8 billion in government debts to the states who are our creditors grouped in the Paris Club. The club is to make a decision on this matter at the beginning of April.

Deputy Minister on Arms Sector Redeployment

LD1102000894 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Of the 82 industries belonging to the armaments sector, only 31 will remain, Deputy Industry Minister Roman Czerwinski said at a news conference.

[Begin Czerwinski recording] This does not mean that 51 enterprises have been closed down. It means that military production has been moved from those enterprises, or will be moved from them. Why do we have to do this? Well, there was a time when our armaments industry was geared to production not just for our army but also for the army of the Warsaw Pact. The needs of that army, the needs of a global conflict and the provisions for such a scenario were very, very much higher than they are in the present defense doctrine, which only envisages the defense of the country.

We do not intend to privatize this sector. We want to retain proprietry control over these enterprises. Of these 31 enterprises 10 to 12 are in very good financial shape, a further 10 are improving. [end recording]

The minister imparted the information that the Ministry of National Defense [MON] had, and has no intention of

buying the Czech Albatros training and combat aircraft instead of the Polish Iryda aircraft. Let me remind you that two days ago the MON refused to buy the 36 commissioned Irydas produced by WSK-Mielec. The refusal was explained by, among other things, the fact that these aircraft were not the training and combat versions the ministry ordered and that their price was not competitive enough.

The Mielec Solidarity spokesman announced that there will be a protest regarding this matter.

[Begin unidentified Solidarity spokesman recording] I know that Minister Kolodziejczyk is not opposed to the Iryda plane. All that was said was that a training plane was not, at the moment, needed by the army. I knowing the Iryda plane, and I know that it is a training and combat plane. Following my meeting with deputy minister Kuriata, Minister Pol intends to meet Minister Kolodziejczyk. The problem, of course, is: Where to find the means to purchase the plane? [end recording]

Daily Previews Scheduled Budget Vote in Sejm

WS1102114494 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by E.Cz. and E.K.: "After Cabinet Crisis; Budget Will Be the Test"]

[Text] *It is quite possible that, despite the coalition compromise, the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] will not take a unanimous stand in the voting on the budget. The Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] in turn says that it will impose complete club discipline. According to the SLD, introducing voting discipline within the PSL is exclusively Waldemar Pawlak's business. It is hard to tell to what extent the behavior of some Sejm deputies for the PSL is just a game under which they will vote in favor of the government's budget draft anyway.*

The PSL Keeps Playing

"Voting on the budget will be political, it will be about the stability of the governing coalition, and it will be a test of the PSL's and the SLD's abilities to jointly work out a compromise-based economic program," says the PSL's Janusz Piechocinski. Despite the fact that the governing coalition's leaders have obliged themselves to jointly support the government budget draft, the PSL Sejm deputies of the Sejm Agricultural Commission continue to demand an increase in agricultural expenditures by 10 trillion zlotys [Z]. The commission adopted a proposal for such an amendment as early as two weeks ago. The commission's chairman, the PSL's Roman Jagielinski, defends the pproach: "I will not change my view because I am bound by a decision by the commission and by the PSL Chief Council [no closing quotation as published]. As early as December, the Chief Council imposed an obligation on its members who are Sejm deputies to increase the budget means for agriculture by Z4 trillion, out of which, let us recall here, half has already been taken into account in the government's budget draft. The Sejm Agriculture Commission is demanding an additional Z10 trillion; it says there is a necessity to increase subsidies from the budget for more areas linked to agriculture, among them banks. Jagielinski explains that the contradiction between a statement by the prime minister (PSL chief) and the position taken by the Sejm Agriculture Commission is caused by a lack of an information policy inside the PSL. The issue of supporting the government's budget draft was not discussed with the PSL authorities, not even on the eve of the coalition summit, during which leaders of both parties obliged themselves to jointly support the budget draft that had been submitted.

Jagielinski allows for the possibility of a division within the PSL Deputies Club during the vote on the budget, even if clubwide discipline is introduced. Other PSL members are also talking about a lack of consultation on the issue between the PSL authorities and the Sejm deputies. "It is not known to what extent the demands for increases in budgetary expenditures are the PSL's tactical maneuver and to what extent the maneuver has been agreed upon with the coalition partner," Piechocinski says. Both parties could be eager to convince the electorate that they fought till the end to keep election promises. Lack of budget means could be a good explanation for consenting to the government's version.

But the SLD regards adopting the budget in the government's version as a principle from which the party has no intention of deviating. According to assurances coming out of the SLD Deputies Club, there will be a discipline enforced during the vote. SLD leaders do not expect Sejm deputies for the All-Polish Trade Unions Agreement to break away from the voting. The trade unionists' moods should be calmed by shifts of individual items within the budget and by devoting these means for social goals and for professional activation of the unemployed.

Left Wing Gathers Strength

It is not known whether the coalition's stability and durability will be affected by an amendment submitted by the Sejm Ownership Transformations Commission to "Directions of Privatizations" contained in the budget. The amendment introduces greater supervision by the Sejm over privatization of economic enterprises in strategic branches. That provision is also included in the coalition agreement, but, according to some of the Sejm deputies for the SLD, it is so flexible that it is hard to predict what the provision will mean in practice. If Sejm deputies impose too strict a control on measures undertaken by the ownership transformations minister, that could become another reason for a deteriorating situation in the government and the coalition.

After the Cabinet crisis, which has been perceived as the SLD's loss, Aleksander Kwasniewski's closest associates went on unscheduled vacations. Until the return of the SLD leader from Lillehammer, which is supposed to be in the middle of next week, they were "forbidden to go within 100 meters of the Sejm building." Only sessions by individual commissions are supposed to be an alleviating circumstance for those who disobey.

Sejm deputies for the SLD announce that, after they are back from their vacations, they will begin negotiations.

TANJUG: Akashi Halts Artillery Withdrawal

LD1302195294 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1936 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Sarajevo, February 13 (TANJUG)—Special United Nations envoy for former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi has stopped the artillery withdrawal around Sarajevo assessing that the Bosnian Serbs' heavy weapons could be efficiently controlled where they are at present, Chief of the General Staff of the Serbian Army General Manojlo Milovanovic said on Sunday.

"The reason for stopping the withdrawal of artillery pieces is that the U.N. peacekeepers (UNPROFOR) are unable to secure efficient control of the Moslem infantry, which is envisaged by an agreement reached by the Moslem and Serb sides and UNPROFOR," General Milovanovic told a press conference after meeting with Chief of the UNPROFOR Command for Bosnia Angus Ramsey.

General Milovanovic and Ramsey met at Pale, the political centre of the Bosnian Serb Republic, to discuss Sarajevo's demilitarization and control of the agreed ceasefire which took effect at noon on Thursday.

The Bosnian Serb army has proposed that its artillery be controlled on its present positions with simultaneous control of the Moslem infantry because the Serb heavy weapons are a balance to the more numerous Moslem infantry, General Milovanovic said.

As UNPROFOR has failed to secure the control of the Moslem infantry Milovanovic said he did not allow the Serb artillery to be withdrawn.

The relevant documents, including NATO's ultimatum, do not insist categorically on a withdrawal of the artillery because they use the terms "withdrawal" and "placing under UNPROFOR control," he said.

"We have fulfilled our obligation by accepting to put our artillery under control on condition that the same is done with the Moslem infantry," General Milovanovic said.

Asked whether he took NATO threats seriously, he replied that, as a soldier, he did.

"I don't know what NATO will do but I know what we'll do - we'll defend ourselves," he said.

The North Atlantic Council on Wednesday gave ten days to the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their heavy weapons 20 kilometres from the centre of Sarajevo or to place them under UNPROFOR control, or their positions would be bombed.

NATO also demanded from the Moslem side to place its heavy arms under UNPROFOR control.

Serbs Seek Permission To Keep Artillery in Place

AU1302155094 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Report by Sanja Eric from Pale]

[Text] On the occasion of the agreed cease-fire and the withdrawal of artillery from around Sarajevo, General Manojlo Milovanovic, member of the general staff of the army of the Srpska republic, and General Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the general staff of the army of the Srpska republic, met the representatives of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces], General (Magnus) Ramsey, head of the UNPROFOR staff for the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, and General Andre Soubirou, head of the UNPROFOR sector for Sarajevo, in Pale today.

After the meeting, Gen. Manojlo Milovanovic said that progress has been achieved in the talks because despite all that is happening, the 24th truce has still been lasting the longest. Gen. Milovanovic said that the Serbian side has imposed the condition that there will be no grouping and pulling out of the artillery, which means that artillery will remain where it is and UNPROFOR is obligated to ensure control of the cease-fire. Members of the UNPROFOR have accepted this condition because no document, including the one adopted by NATO, speaks about a definite [kategorican] withdrawal of weapons, but only about putting them under UNPROFOR control.

By the way, Muslim forces have continued violating the agreed cease-fire on the Sarajevo battlefield. On the Vogosca section of the front, they are opening mortar and infantry fire on the Serbian defense lines around the Traffic Faculty. The cease-fire does not apply to Muslim snipers who are shooting from their strongholds at all sections of Serbian Sarajevo. So far there have been no reports of casualties.

Gvero Demands Guarantees for Withdrawal

LD1302144994 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1256 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Kragujevac, 13 Feb (TANJUG)—"If we were to accept the unreasonable demand that only our artillery be removed—by 20 km from our positions on the Sarajevo front line—that would mean that we have abandoned our territory and left the Serb population with no protection and at the mercy of 50,000 poisonously religious fanatics and anti-Serb Muslim fighters," General Milan Gvero, deputy chief of the general staff of the army of the Srpska republic, said today in the "Hallmark of the Times" program on Kragujevac radio.

Saying that no one in his right mind could accept this either in a military or a human sense, Gvero stressed that immediately after the withdrawal Muslim forces would take the Serb positions. This is why he has demanded a sensible agreement in the direction of peace.

"We must have guarantees that, if our army withdraws by a single kilometer, the Muslim army will do the same and that their infantry will not advance by a single inch. If there are no such guarantees we are dutybound to remain where we are now, because of the bloodshed and the people," Gvero added. In his words, there is a false image in the world of Sarajevo as a Muslim city. This is a territory which is Serbian in every respect, so the term siege is inappropriate and at odds with the facts.

The demand to tilt the balance of force to the detriment of Serb forces is unrealistic and unfulfillable. In Gvero's view, this is a criminal attitude to our territory, our people, and our army.

General Gvero stressed that NATO's ultimatum was a consequence of the emotions created by the Sarajevo massacre, and it is a fact that the massacre was staged.

Asked to comment on President Clinton's statement that one should not fear the Bosnian Serbs' air defense, which is allegedly totally outdated and in poor repair, Gen. Gvero said: "If someone attacks us for no reason whatever we will, just as always in the past, find a way to neutralize the attacker. No one should speculate as to what weaponry we possess. We have enough weapons for effective defense. I believe that reason will prevail, but if insanity prevails it will be met with an appropriate reaction."

Akashi Meets With UN, NATO Commanders

AU1302182094 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 13 (AFP)—The UN secretary-general's special envoy met with commanders of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and NATO's Southern Command here Sunday [13 February] to discuss possible air strikes on Bosnian Serb forces besieging Sarajevo.

The meeting, which came a week ahead of the Febuary 21 deadline set by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the Serbs to pull back their heavy guns, grouped Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's special representative Yasushi Akashi, the UNPROFOR commanders for ex-Yugoslavia and Bosnia—Generals Jean Cot and Michael Rose—and Admiral Jeremy Boorda, commander of NATO's Southern Command.

Akashi told reporters afterwards that the meeting "was to make sure that UN and NATO work in concert with each other. It was fruitful. It seems that we think in the same way."

The talks, held at UNPROFOR's logistics base at Zagreb airport, marked the third time since Tuesday that General Cot and Admiral Boorda had met here to discuss possible NATO air action against Serb positions around the Bosnian capital.

"This meeting is very important to the success of our mutual endeavour," said Boorda's spokesman Captain Jim Mitchell. He added that the talks aimed to define "whose the responsibilities are" on "both sides of this team."

UN Deploys Troops at Points Around Sarajevo

AU1002165094 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, Feb 10 (AFP)—UN troops deployed Thursday [10 February] at six strategic points around the Bosnian capital to enforce the latest UN-brokered cease-fire agreement, as Bosnia Serbs warned they would retaliate against NATO airstrikes.

The UN Protection Force stepped up its presence in the city, while spokesman Colonel Richard Pernod said the UN troops had been ordered to riposte if attacked.

Bosnia's Serbs on Thursday rejected the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's ultimatum to end their siege of Sarajevo or face air strikes, and said their heavy weapons would not be removed from around the city.

"Despite this ultimatum, the Serb artillery will not move an inch," said their main spokesman, Miroslav Toholj. "We are ready to retaliate."

And in what appeared to be an early Serb reaction to the NATO deadline, Toholj confirmed the Serbs were preventing UN refugee workers from following UN orders and leaving Serb-controlled zones.

"This decision was taken on the orders of the deputy commander-in-chief of the Serb army," General Milan Gvero, he said.

However, the UNHCR denied its staff were being held hostage. "We are having problems at the checkpoints but they are not hostages," said spokesman Kris Janowski here.

The aid agency Wednesday [9 February] recalled to Zagreb or Belgrade two thirds of its staff stationed in Serb-held areas of Bosnia. "The reason for this recall is next week's visit here of the High Commissioner and overall tense situation," he said.

Toholj described Wednesday's threat by NATO to hit Serb positions with air strikes if the artillery is not pulled back within 10 days as "a terrorist threat," adding that the Serbs would respond "by all means" to any attack. [passage omitted]

Serbs, Government Forces Surrender More Weapons

AU1302193894 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Article by Helene Despic-Popovic]

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, Feb 13 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb and government forces surrendered fresh batches of heavy

weapons to UN troops Sunday as a ceasefire around the city entered its fourth day with only minor violations, UN spokesmen said.

UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] spokesman Major Bill Aikman told a press conference late Sunday (13 February] that 13 Serb and five Bosnian Army weapons had been handed over to UNPROFOR during the day after a 24-hour break in the disarmament process.

The Serbs handed over two 100 mm cannon, two 155 mm cannon, a 122 mm mortar, six 82 mm mortars and two multiple rocket-launchers, Aikman said.

The mainly-Moslem Bosnian army for its part dismantled and placed under UN control a 75 mm anti-aircraft gun, two others of 75 and 37 mm, and two 82 mm mortars. [passage omitted]

The ceasefire entered its fourth day midday Sunday with only a "small number of violations," Aikman said, adding 15 shells were fired in the city in the last 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Zagreb Yasushi Akashi, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's special representative in Bosnia, stressed the air strike threat applied to all three of Bosnia's warring parties.

Speaking after meeting Sunday with UN and NATO commanders to coordinate possible implementation of air strikes, Akashi said that, in the event of bombardments being ordered, NATO would carry them out "against whichever party was violating the ceasefire."

UNPROFOR's Bosnia commander General Sir Michael Rose, who attended the meeting, added that many of the truce violations registered in Sarajevo had been carried out by Bosnian government troops. [passage omitted]

Rose Orders More Troops in for Cease-Fire

AU1202150094 Paris AFP in English 1246 GMT 12 Feb 94

[By Helene Despic-Popovic]

[Text] Sarajevo, Feb 12 (AFP)—UN commander General Michael Rose ordered major peacekeeping reinforcements deployed here Saturday [12 February] to help implement a ceasefire accord calling for the immediate surrender of heavy weapons to UN control.

A UN Protetion Force [UNPROFOR] spokesman said Rose had called for a battalion of Malaysian UN troops to be deployed in the capital to help with the operation, which must be completed within a 10-day NATO deadline ending on February 21.

"General Rose has directed the Malaysian battalion which... arrived about a month ago or so to come here later today to assist interposition of UN troups between the two sides," he said. "They will be coming in significant number."

The Malaysian battalion, comprising up to 1,000 troops, arrived in the region about a month ago. Part of it has already been deployed in the region of Jablanica-Konjic, in southeastern Bosnia.

The order came on the second day of a ceasefire agreed Wednesday between Bosnian Moslems and Serbs, and in the context of a NATO ultimatum to launch air strikes if they do not demilitarize the city by midnight on February 20.

The truce itself was apparently holding Saturday, with no reports of fighting in Bosnia overnight. The NATO ultimatum allows for air strikes if the truce is violated in Sarajevo itself, a UN-designated safe area.

During the first day of implementation of the ceasefire Friday, Bosnian Serbs surrendered 13 artillery pieces or mortars, while Bosnian Moslem forces handed over five mortars, according to UN officials.

The quantity of weapons was insignificant given the firepower both sides possess in and around the city, but peacekeepers said the handover was of great symbolic importance.

At the end of the day Friday Rose said that "We've been moving troops into positions between the (front) lines and we've been accepting weapons under our control, into barracks on both sides."

The threat of air strikes, which could be triggered before the 10-day deadline by a breach of the ceasefire in Sarajevo, was boosted Friday by the U.S. decision to send eight F-15E bombers to Italy to increase the NATO force.

The planes, increasing the number of NATO aircraft in the region from 120 to 146, will be part of an improved fighter squadron being put together by Admiral Michael Boorda, NATO regional commander in charge of the Bosnia operation.

Many of the same type of aircraft had been in the region several months ago when the NATO allies appeared to be getting ready to launch air strikes.

Pilots at NATO bases in Italy, already being used as the base for Operation Deny Flight to prevent unauthorized air activity over Bosnia, say they are ready to implement the threat of strikes whenever necessary.

"The decision is a political one. We are here to carry out UN orders," said Doug Yurovich, 37, at the Italian NATO base of Aviano. "From up there you can see the Serb positions clearly. We would have no problem in hitting the targets, once they are designated," he said.

The developments came as peace talks between Bosnia's warring parties in Geneva were adjourned until after the NATO deadline with no progress reported.

E.C. mediator Lord Owen said earlier Saturday in Geneva that a new U.S. diplomatic initiative in favor of

the Moslem-led Bosnian government and the NATO ultimatum were encouraging the Moslems to hold out in the negotiations to see if Western forces would intervene militarily around Sarajevo.

"Certainly they don't want to talk about the details of UN administration (of Sarajevo) for the moment until they see what happens. Probably the NATO deadline has to pass," he said.

B-H Army Using Cease-Fire To Strengthen Positions

AU1402112894 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] Sarajevo, Feb 14 (AFP)—The mainly Moslem Bosnian army is taking advantage of the ceasefire in Sarajevo to reinforce its positions along several fronts around the capital, UNPROFOR spokesman Bill Aikman said Monday.

"Bosnian infantry units are expanding and advancing their trench system in Zuc and Mojmilo," two regions that overlook the capital, Aikman said. "They're improving their defense positions. It's a violation of the ceasefire."

The ceasefire went into effect last Thursday and was prompted by a mortar attack on a Sarajevo market that left 68 people dead and 197 injured.

The attack also prompted the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to issue an ultimatum giving Bosnian Serbs besieging Sarajevo until February 21 to surrender their heavy weapons or face air strikes. The Bosnian army also must abide by the ultimatum.

The weapons handover, which began Friday, has been proceeding at a snail's pace with each side handing in only a few pieces of artillery.

Aikman said the Serbs surrendered two mortars Sunday evening, bringing to 28 the total number of mortars and heavy artillery they have handed in since Friday. The weapons are under UN custody.

The Bosnian army, for its part, has so far handed in 10 mortars, Aikman said.

Ganic Speaks of Possible 'Guerrilla War'

AU1402122594 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 14 Feb 94 p 130

[Interview with Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Just Like Before the Gulf War"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Does the NATO threat against the Serbs give the Muslims new courage?

[Ganic] If the Serbs have not withdrawn their artillery by 21 February, NATO must bomb them. Otherwise, there will no longer be any NATO. The decision is clear: The ultimatum will not be extended, the only alternatives are withdrawal or attack.

[DER SPIEGEL] The order to the planes to attack must still be given by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

[Ganic] NATO has imposed the ultimatum so as to act and not to wriggle out of its responsibility again with administrative excuses. Formally, Butrus-Ghali decides on the operation—in reality, Clinton and Mitterrand give the orders.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are the attacks designed to give the inhabitants of Sarajevo some breathing space, or is the intention to end the war in Bosnia, if necessary by militarily defeating the Serbs?

[Ganic] A soon as Sarajevo is liberated, the Serbs will immediately show readiness for compromise. The psychological effect will be thorough.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, the Serbs could give up Sarajevo and, in retaliation, destroy Tuzla, Gorazde, or other Bosnian towns.

[Ganic] They will do this only if NATO hesitates and once again demonstrates leniency. So far, throughout this war, the West has not yet done anything specific. However, the Serbs cannot be impressed with appeals and resolutions.

[DER SPIEGEL] Serbian leader Karadzic does not seem to be very intimidated. He is threatening retaliatory strikes.

[Ganic] This is simply ridiculous. The Serbs are only a small regional power, but before any potential intervention there are Western critics who conjure up the danger of a world war—this is the same situation as before the Gulf war against Iraq. The UN blue helmets in Bosnia spend 90 percent of their time barricading and entrenching themselves, even though the Serbs are cowards, are strong only with artillery. There is no reason to fear them.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can Serbian superiority be broken without the use of ground forces?

[Ganic] I guarantee that Milosevic will not wage war against NATO. He will never risk the bombing of Serbia. He will also call his puppets in Bosnia, such as Karadzic, back in time.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does a NATO intervention bring peace closer, or does it just lengthen the war? Hoping for Western help, your President Izetbegovic has so far rejected any compromise at the negotiating table in Geneva.

[Ganic] Why should we share our house with thieves? We do not have the authority to relinquish any land to the Serbs. It is the property of our people, who have been

driven away. Are our fellow-citizens supposed to vegetate as refugees in Germany or Austria instead of returning to their homes? According to the ethnic map, 45 percent of Bosnia belongs to the Muslim population.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Geneva you are offered about one-third of the state territory. Are you not succumbing to an illusion if you hope to receive more?

[Ganic] Germany has been united, Israel is negotiating with the Palestinians about the return of the occupied territories. Peace without clearing out of conquered territories is inconceivable. If the Serbs do not withdraw, there will be chaos in Bosnia for a long time. Europe is constantly calling on us to end the war and does not understand that our giving in would just end the first stage of the war. If Bosnia is divided into three parts, the Serbian Republic will continue to attack the Bosnian Republic.

[DER SPIEGEL] Can you actually survive as a nation in the Serbian-Croatian embrace? What kind of Bosnia do you want to push through at the Geneva negotiations?

[Ganic] A sovereign state, which may be structured in autonomous areas, but with a central parliament and a central government.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your government had already agreed on the principle of a tripartite division....

[Ganic] ...the temptation to resign oneself to a small piece of land, if this could ensure that one never had to see Chetniks again, naturally existed. However, now we have to strengthen our resistance so as to decisively weaken the Serbs.

[DER SPIEGEL] What happens if the ultimatum passes and the Serbs only pretend to give in just to attack with all the more force a few weeks later?

[Ganic] If NATO gambles away its opportunity, the war will spread. We will begin a guerrilla war and stake everything on one card. Perhaps the Turkish Army will then help us. The Islamic countries have frequently offered us their support.

Silajdzic, Assembly President Report on Talks

LD1302195594 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Assembly President Miro Lazovic held a news conference today upon their return from Geneva.

The Geneva negotiations and the withdrawal of the aggressor's artillery from around Sarajevo were the main focus. We have just received Mladen Bosnjak's report:

[Begin recording] [Bosnjak] Mr. Silajdzic, what were the results of your talks with [Croatian Foreign Minister Mate] Granic? Mr. Lazovic, how was the proposal on the three-way or four- way organization of the authorities and territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina—made by the Bosnian Croat convention—received in Geneva?

[Silajdzic] I think we held four meetings with Mr. Granic. We agreed, first, that military commanders should meet and try to put into effect a total cease-fire. We also agreed that both sides completely supported a project entitled All Return Home. That means creating conditions for everyone to return home, for everyone who has been expelled to be able to go back home. I think that we owe such an approach to our era and to this civilization. I am pleased that the Croatian delegation accepted such an approach.

We also agreed that the talks should be intensified and should resume.

[Lazovic] I can say the proposal by the Bosnian Croat convention—which had been accepted by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly—was received with real interest in Geneva.

That was the first time that Bosnian Croats appeared before the international public with a policy completely different from that of Zagreb. The delegation of the Bosnian Croat convention clearly said at a news conference that they represented two-thirds of the Bosnian Croats and that they denied the right of legitimacy to Akmadzic and others who are really entitled only to represent western Herzegovina.

This is a complete novelty in the policy of the Bosnian Croats. I am convinced that the official policy of the Republic of Croatia will have to take this into consideration in the upcoming period. It is interesting that even the representatives of the so-called Srpska republic listened to the proposal with a certain degree of interest. If the activities of the Bosnian Croats achieve satisfactory results in the coming period, particularly in the international arena, I believe that a change could be brought about that is favorable to the overall Bosnia-Herzegovina policy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Serb, Muslim Commanders To Meet at Airport

LD1302153794 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] General Ratko Mladic, the commander of Serb formations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, had a meeting yesterday in Drvar, at his own request, with General Jean Cot, the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] commander for the former Yugoslavia, the Zagreb headquarters of UNPROFOR announced today.

Mladic has agreed to meet with General Rasim Delic, the commander of the Muslim forces, on Tuesday 15 February at Sarajevo Airport, the statement says. The aim of this meeting is to continue, and flesh out, the concrete measures to ensure the success of the cease-fire, which is already being implemented in and around Sarajevo. This means collecting up and withdrawing heavy weaponry

and reducing forces on front lines, a statement issued by UNPROFOR's public relations office says.

Abdic Appeals for Help; Serbs Attack Bihac

AU1402094294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Report by Mirza Sadikovic from Bihac]

[Text] Karadzic's deadline for his butchers to enter Bihac—to capture the right bank of the Una River, that is—runs out today at noon. That is why his bloodthirsty butchers spent the entire night charging and attacking at all the defense lines. They attacked the Grmusko-Srbljanski Plateau, Hasin Vrh, Grabez. In many of these places hand-to-hand fighting continues. Bad weather conditions are not deterring the Chetnik artillery from further destroying civilian buildings, destroying Bihac, [word indistinct], suburban districts, and Cazin.

[Words indistinct] that Fikret Abdic yesterday sent to Tudjman, Karadzic, Milosevic, Boban, and his other superiors, to urgently help his so-called army defend itself against the 5th Corps. Obviously, (?he too) fears the growing awareness of the people of Velika Kladusa.

This has been Mirza Sadikovic reporting for Radio Television Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ganic Appeals to Akashi

LD1302215594 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Ejup Ganic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, has sent a protest note to UN secretary general's special envoy Yasushi Akashi, [who is currently] in Zagreb, saying that the Serb forces have been attacking Bihac and the surrounding areas.

Human and material damage is vast. This region was declared a zone protected by the UN Protection Forces. Even after several appeals your troops have so far only watched the aggressor's barbaric actions. We demand action from you, Ejup Ganic's letter to Jasushi Akashi says.

Gvero: Aid Workers To Share Fate of Serbs

AU1102104094 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1000 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] The deputy chief of the general staff of the Bosnian Serbs, Gvero, has threatened the employees of relief organizations with reprisals in the event of NATO air strikes. At a news conference northeast of the besieged capital city, the general said that then the aid workers would have to share the fate of the Bosnian Serbs. They would not be permitted to leave.

Aid Workers To Be Evacuated

LD1202142494 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1230 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] All civilian personnel working for international humanitarian organizations are leaving Sarajevo. This has been learned from sources in the Italian aid office in Zagreb. It seems that the evacuation of civilian personnel has been decided as a precautionary measure in case of any attack against Serb positions.

U.S. Media Accused of Provoking Aggression

LD1302155694 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1531 GMT 13 Feb 94

["Pool" item; by Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Washington, February 13 (TANJUG)—Since the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) sent an ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs that they would be bombed unless they withdrew their heavy weapons to a distance of 20 km from the center of Sarajevo by February 21, media in the United States have been showing their own and the world public every possible way in which every possible piece of ammunition will inevitably drop on the heads of Bosnian Serbs.

For a full three years since the Gulf war, American media, spearheaded by the CNN, have never had a better chance to promote in such an aggressive manner the power of American weaponry and such accompanying arrogance that can hardly be attributed to a civilized country.

According to American media, the planes of Admiral Burda, who is in charge of the operation in Bosnia, revved up their engines already on Friday evening because some shells exploded in Sarajevo. It was later established, however, that there were about fifty of them and that most of them were Moslem.

The American public was immediately informed from NATO's southern command in Naples that a special group in charge of picking potential Serb targets had specified several hundred of them, from individual artillery pieces to warehouses of fuel and munitions.

In the war of nerves which was launched by the U.S. Administration and taken up with clockwork precision by the American media, the information was released immediately that the turning on of the engines of Admiral Burda was, unfortunately, a false alarm. The action was nevertheless welcome, the media emphasized, because it had enabled all services and commands to be put into operation as in an actual situation.

Admiral Burda has 146 planes at his disposal. In the escalation of military combinations and war cries, he immediately asked for an additional eight "super" planes, cheered on by CNN and company, which would be able to strike by day or by night, in rain or fog, from high or low altitudes.

Eight F-15s were immediately flown from bases in Great Britain to airports in Italy.

CNN hurried to show until now unusual "secret" CIA shots showing, as the reporter explained, the helpless appearance of Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo, filmed with optical instruments of U.S. planes. Everything has been filmed, pinpointed, nothing can be hidden, in the daytime or at night, and now all that is expected is the signal to begin.

One of the "commanders" of the CNN is already in the Adriatic on the aircraft carrier The Saratoga. Everything is in readiness here, engines are roaring, missiles have been attached under the wings of the planes, only Butrus Butrus-Ghali seems to be hesitating still, and the Russians are ignored anyway.

Mostar Designated as Capital of Herceg-Bosna

LD0902195194 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1837 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 9 (TANJUG)—The parliament of the Bosnian Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna has decided that the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be a union of three constituent nations enjoying the same rights.

The Bosnian Croats' constitutional rights and right of self-determination can be exercised through the Bosnian Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna in a union of three republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, provided that the right is observed of the other two constituent nations, Bosnian Moslems and Serbs, to have their own republics based on the same principles—says a declaration adopted by 400 participants in the parliament session of the Bosnian Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna late on Tuesday.

According to this document, Mostar, the largest town in the Herzegovina region and its administrative centre, in which pitched battles are being fought between Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Moslem troops, is to be the capital of the Bosnian Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna and 'an indivisible urban entity.'

The participants in the parliament session held in Livno, a town in western Herzegovina, have supported Franjo Tudjman's policy i.e. his 'peace initiative,' in particular the agreement on the normalization of relations between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed within the international conference on the former Yugoslavia in Geneva last month.

Muslims Hold 60,000 Serbs as 'Hostages'

LD0902164994 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1641 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Jagodina, Feb 9 (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, the speaker of the parliament of the Bosnian Serb Republic (RS), said on Wednesday that the Serb side is the most interested that an agreement on the normalization of the situation in Sarajevo is reached in Geneva on Thursday, because the Moslems are holding 60,000 Serbs as hostages there.

"Sarajevo is the biggest detention camp in which the Serbs have been held since the start of the war. This is why it is illogical to claim that the Serbs have encircled Sarajevo, and even more illogical that they do not want a negotiated solution for this Serb city," Krajisnik told local Radio Jagodina (central Serbia).

He reiterrated that in Geneva RS is willing to discuss the demilitarization of Sarajevo and the putting of this multi-ethnic capital of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina under U.N. control.

"Tomorrow in Geneva the Serb side will clearly state its conditions for pulling out its heavy weapons," Krajisnik said and explained that this is necessary because the Moslems also have the same type of arms.

"If the Moslem weapons remain at the line of fire, and ours are put out of action, then it is clear that the international community's demand is to enable the Moslems to take the Serb territories in this part of the front," Krajisnik said. The Serbs will never allow this, he concluded.

Tuzla Muslims Hampering Aid Distribution

LD0902161694 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1601 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Zvornik, Feb 9 (TANJUG)—The Moslem authorities in Tuzla, a former major chemical industry centre in northeast Bosnia, have over the past few days intentionally prevented the distribution of international relief aid to the civilian population aiming to cause mass discontent among their own people, TANJUG learned on Wednesday.

According to well-informed sources in the Bosnian Serb Republic (RS), this discontent is used as an argument in the efforts to open up the former military airport in Tuzla on the pretext that this would step up humanitarian aid.

However, official RS sources confirm that there is enough food because all international aid for Tuzla passes through Zvornik, a town near the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In the past ten days only, 13 convoys (a total of 172 trucks) of the U.N. High Commissariat for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) brought 1,400 tonnes of food and medications and 1,200 litres of engine oil and fuel to Tuzla via Serb-held territory.

However, the bulk of this aid is siezed by the Bosnian Moslem army, never arriving in the hands of the tens of thousands of Tuzla's children, women, the ill and elderly, the Bosnian Serbs said.

Granic Offers To Withdraw 'Elements' of Army

AU1202211494 Paris AFP in English 2054 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 12 (AFP)—Croatia is prepared to withdraw "elements" of its army currently fighting in Bosnia if the UN pledges to guarantee the security of Croat enclaves in central Bosnia, Foreign Minister Mate Granic said Saturday [12 February].

Granic told journalists he made the proposal in a letter Friday to United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

As well as proposing the withdrawal of "elements" of its army deployed south of the southern Bosnia-Herzegovina city of Mostar, Zagreb also called on the UN to set up frontier controls on the border between Bosnia and Croatia.

"At the same time, Croatia is asking for guarantees from the UN concerning the security of the Croat enclaves in central Bosnia," Granic added.

The troops in question were deployed on both sides of the Neretva River along a 27-kilometre (16-mile) corridor between the border and the town of Buna, south of Mostar, Granic added.

Granic said the troops stationed east of the river were Croatian Army regulars, and those on the western bank were "former members of the Croatian Army" fighting as "volunteers" alongside Bosnian Croat forces.

On February 3, the UN Security Council called on Croatia to immediately withdraw all its regular forces from Bosnia or face international sanctions.

The UN has estimated between 3,000 and 5,000 Croatian regulars are fighting in Bosnia.

Zagreb has denied the allegation, but admitted it has deployed troops south of Mostar and in the hinterland of the Croatian Adriatic port of Dubrovnik, and that around 2,000 Croatian military "volunteers" are active inside Bosnia.

Granic Discusses Offer

LD1202235094 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2224 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Telephone interview with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic by unidentified announcer; announcer is in Zagreb studio, Granic's location not given; from the "Slikom na Slku" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] Finally, can I ask for your comments on today's news carried by REUTERS, which cites your letter to Butrus-Ghali—and today's news conference after the meeting with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia delegation—in which Croatia offers [announcer appears to quote] the withdrawal of troops from the border areas in Bosnia and in return requests that the UN guarantees security to Croat civilians—in central Bosnia, of course.

[Granic] After my talks with [Bosnian] Prime Minister [Haris] Silajdzic, we made an evaluation and, with the agreement of the president of the republic of course, I sent a letter to Mr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, in which I explained that Croatia is proposing the control [by the UN] of all the borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including those between Croatia and Herzegovina, and also that we would—from the border areas, that means south of Buna, south of Mostar—withdraw our units and some elements of the Croatian Army from the left bank [of the Neretva River]; these we have been calling volunteers because they have been and are now—although the international comunity calls them elements of the Croatian Army. [I explained] that we would withdraw them from the right [as heard] bank—but in the spirit of the fact that General [Ante] Roso and General [Rasim] Delic [Croat and Muslim army commanders, respectively] would meet—and this was confirmed today—on 18 February in Split in order to reach agreement on a comprehensive cease-fire between Croatian and Muslim forces.

On the other hand, we sought from the United Nations the complete protection of Croatian enclaves in central Bosnia.

[Announcer] So that sentence in the REUTERS news item, in which it says—and I quote—volunteers as elements of the regular Croatian Army would be withdrawn [fails to complete sentence]. Who exactly?

[Granic] As regards the border areas, that is the Croatian Army. And as regards the elements of the Croatian Army—these are volunteers [as heard].

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Mr. Granic, for responding to our call and being the guest on "Slikom na Slku" [Picture Versus Picture] program.

Welcomes Pressure in Letter

LD1102191794 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has sent a letter to United Nations Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, informing him about the constructive atmosphere and results achieved in negotiations with Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic in Geneva on 9 and 10 February. In his letter Minister Granic informs Butrus-Ghali about the readiness displayed by both sides to intensify negotiations which have been initiated on the resolution of remaining contentious issues and future relations between the Croatian and the Bosnian Muslim nations.

Minister Granic welcomes the consent given by the governments of the United States, European, and other countries for pressure to be stepped up on all the warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to reach a final solution on the basis of the European Union action plan.

Minister Granic also expresses support for the NATO readiness to use force to lift the siege of Sarajevo, which represents the first step in the implementation of that plan.

The Croatian minister of foreign affairs also informs the UN secretary general about Croatia's readiness to meet the request of the UN Security Council to reduce tensions between the Croatian and Muslim sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the spirit of a cease-fire agreement that the two sides have previously signed.

The Croatian government will also turn to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] representatives in order to coordinate the verification of moves by the Croatian Government and the Croatian Defense Council, which should reduce tension and rebuild trust between the Croatian and Muslim sides, particularly in central Bosnia and in Mostar.

The Croatian Government asks the UN Security Council to offer guarantees with regard to halting the offensive actions of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina in these areas, in the spirit of the aforementioned Geneva negotiations.

Akashi Cautious on NATO's Ultimatum to Serbs

OW1102102394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Zagreb, Feb. 11 KYODO—The special U.N. representative to the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said Thursday [10 February] that NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs could escalate the Bosnian civil war and drag U.N. peacekeepers into it.

NATO warned the Serbs on Wednesday that its warplanes would bomb their heavy weapons located around the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo unless the guns are withdrawn or put under U.N. command by February 21.

"The plus and minus impact (of air strikes) must be carefully considered," Akashi said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at the headquarters of the U.N. Protection Force in Zagreb, Croatia.

"The military commanders of the U.N. Protection Force also believe that air strikes could be useful to promote political and diplomatic negotiations, but they see a number of complicated questions involved militarily," Akashi said.

Akashi said the new cease-fire that U.N. mediators reached in Wednesday negotiations with the Serbs and the embattled Muslim-led Bosnian government will soon be put into a written agreement.

Its main points are both sides' pledge to honor the cease-fire and to pull back their heavy artillery and mortars from the area around Sarajevo and to place them under U.N. control, he said.

Akashi said with regard to the quick conclusion of a lasting cease-fire agreement, the NATO ultimatum could turn out to be a "plus."

However, in negotiations with the Serbs it could also become a minus factor, since the Bosnian Muslims took the NATO decision as support for their stance.

"There remain difficult negotiations on both sides," said Akashi, warning against too high hopes for a quick solution.

Dozens of cease-fires have collapsed during nearly two years of fighting around Sarajevo.

Asked if he expects a settlement of the Bosnian conflict within the 10-day NATO deadline, Akashi evaded a clear answer. "As far as we are concerned, we can only say that we will continue our strenuous efforts," he said.

He said the U.N. has not yet concluded who is responsible for the massacre of civilians at a Sarajevo marketplace last weekend.

The mortar attack on February 5 killed 68 people and injured some 142. Investigation into the attack is extremely difficult because the single firing of a mortar leaves few traces on the ground, Akashi said.

The Serbs have denied they fired the mortar round and claim that the Bosnian Muslims staged the incident to fan international outrage over ostensible Serbian atrocities.

RSK Elects Speaker, Condemns Ultimatum

LD1202212394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1813 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Knin, 12 Feb (TANJUG)—The constitutive session of the new [Serb] Krajina parliament has ended with the election of a speaker and two deputy speakers of the assembly, and with the formal swearing into office of Milan Martic as president [of the RSK (republic of Serbian Krajina)]. At the proposal of the Serb Radical Party [SRS], the Assembly, by a majority, elected political scientist Branko Vojnic from Beli Manastir as its speaker, while Marko Atlagic and Dr. Milan Ernjakovic, Krajina Serb Democratic Party [SDS] candidates, were elected as deputy speakers. Mirjana Rodic was elected as assembly secretary. Thus all assembly officials were elected from the ranks of the Krajina SDS-SRS coalition.

At the end of the constitutive session, and at the proposal of RSK president Milan Martic, the assembly adopted a declaration of solidarity with the struggle of the Serb people in the Srpska republic [RS], in the wake of the open threats and the NATO pact ultimatum. [passage omitted]

In the declaration of solidarity with the struggle of the Serb people in the RS, and in connection with the NATO pact's ultimatum, it is stated that this Assembly

"received the news of the NATO pact Council's decision to deliver an unacceptable ultimatum to the RS with deep disappointment."

Such behavior by NATO pact members, the declaration goes on to say, is profoundly unjust. The intention to use armed forces against the right of a people to self-determination runs counter to democracy itself.

"The RSK assembly demands of the state executive organs and of the armed forces that they consider air attacks by NATO to be hostile aggression and that they prevent this by all [available] means, and that they assist the defense of the RS in other ways according to their capabilities. The full consequences of an attack on the RS will be borne by the NATO pact members and the United Nations," it says at the end of the declaration.

Talks Open in Zagreb on FRY-Croatian Relations

LD1202172094 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1606 GMT 12 Feb 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 12 (TANJUG)—Delegations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) and the Republic of Croatia opened talks here on Saturday about the gradual normalization of their relations relying on a declaration signed in Geneva in January.

The delegations are headed by F.R.Y. Vice-Premier Zeljko Simic and Croatian Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Mate Granic.

The closed-door talks in the Croatian Foreign Ministry concentrate on the opening of an F.R.Y. office in Zagreb and a Croatian office in Belgrade, a variety of humanitarian questions, and the establishment of transport and telecommunication links.

Having signed the Geneva declaration in mid-January, the F.R.Y. and Croatia reasserted readiness for gradual normalization of their relations broken in 1991 when Croatia forcibly seceded from the former Yugoslav Federation.

On January 27 in Geneva, the F.R.Y. and Croatian Government delegations agreed to set up joint commissions to deal with the question of missing persons, refugees, and humanitarian matters. The commission held its first meeting in Zagreb on Saturday.

The Yugoslav delegation, as was announced, would be received by Croatian president on Saturday evening.

It was learnt unofficially that on February 14, Mate Granic should arrive for talks in Belgrade, while one day later the offices of the F.R.Y. and Croatia would be opened in Zagreb and Belgrade, respectively.

F.R.Y. Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic stated, after the declaration on the normalization of relations was signed, that this document does not prejudice the question of the final status of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK).

The RSK was formed in 1991 in predominantly Serb-populated parts of Croatia in response to Croatia's forcible secession from ex- Yugoslavia and its attempt to reduce the status of Serbs to that of a national minority. In March, 1992, the RSK was declared "a United Nations Protected Area" (UNPA). It will maintain this status until the final relevant political solution is found.

First Round of Talks 'Cooperative'

LD1202125894 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] This morning's round of Croatian-Yugoslav talks at the level of deputy prime ministers has ended. Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Mate Granic, his guest, Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic, and their associates met, it was announced, to review humanitarian issues and the possibilities for establishing communications links between the two neighboring but still mutually unrecognized countries.

After brief talks between the two delegations in their entirety, the meeting continued between the delegation heads and their closest aides, who discussed political issues. Working groups on humanitarian issues and communications links held separate meetings at the same time.

According to assessments made at the beginning of the talks, the purpose of today's meeting is to resolve problems over which there is a convergence of views between the two countries; however, open questions may arise, and the two sides should at least coordinate methods and dynamics for resolving them.

Croatian circles have noted that this morning's round of talks was held in a cooperative working atmosphere. This particularly applies, reporters were told, to the talks conducted by the mixed commissions for refugees, expelled, and missing persons.

Talks between the Yugoslav and Croatian deputy prime ministers and their associates will continue this afternoon.

Krajina Minister Comments

LD1302200294 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1942 GMT 13 Feb 94

[Text] Knin, Feb 13 (TANJUG)—Republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.) Foreign Minister Slobodan Jarcevic said on Sunday he was confident that Yugoslavia's leadership would not do anything to Krajina's disadvantage while negotiating with Croatia on the normalization of their relations.

The delegations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia on Saturday had talks in Zagreb on the

normalization of their relations, based on the declaration signed in Geneva mid-January.

Jarcevic reiterated that these talks had included a large number of issues, ranging from humanitarian to political issues, and underscored he held the view that Croatia was responsible for the exile of 300,000 Serbs, who did not in any way violate the laws of the new Croatian government. For that reason, Croatia should be 'put before the bar of justice,' Jarcevic said.

On the issue of the re-opening of communications, in particular the Zagreb-Belgrade motorway, Jarcevic repeated the already familiar conditions set by R.S.K. that had to be fulfilled first: peace must be established between R.S.K. and Croatia and Croatia must allow R.S.K. to establish foreign trade.

R.S.K. was proclaimed in 1991 in predominantly Serb-populated parts of Croatia in response to its forcible secession from former Yugoslavia and its attempt to reduce the constituent nation status of Serbs to that of a national minority.

R.S.K. has been the U.N. protected area (UNPA) since March 1992 and, as planned, it will keep this status until a final political solution has been found.

After the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia had signed the declaration on the normalization of their relations, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic said that the declaration did not prejudge the issue of the R.S.K. final status.

Tudjman Receives Croatian, FRY Delegations

LD1202194494 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman tonight received in the presidential palace a delegation from the Republic of Croatia and a delegation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They held talks on the normalization of Croatian-Serbian relations. The Croatian delegation was led by Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs. Zeljko Simic led the delegation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The two delegations told President Tudjman of the results of their talks, which can be regarded as the first successful step toward the normalization of relations. A joint commission for missing persons, refugees, and displaced persons, as well as other humanitarian issues, was created. Liaison offices in the capitals of both countries will be set up soon. President Tudjman pointed out the need for the normalization of relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as for mutual diplomatic recognition, which would create conditions for introducing good-neighborly relations and the opening up of possibilities for economic cooperation.

Despite everything that has taken place over the past few years, two countries that share a border cannot exist in a state of hostilities forever. Therefore, it is in the interest of both the Croatian and Serbian people that peace reigns in future, something that will gradually lead to the restoration of normal life. This is what we should aspire to by investing our every day efforts in this direction—sincerely and without second thoughts—President Tudjman said. [passage omitted]

Tudjman Leaves for Talks With Romanian Leaders

LD1402085994 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 0800 GMT 14 Feb 94

[Text] The President of the Republic of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, left for a state visit to Romania today. During his three-day stay in Bucharest he will hold talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, Romanian parliamentary representatives, heads of parliamentary groups, and representatives of the Croat minority in Romania.

Granic Views Forthcoming Talks With Simic

AU1102215094 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1625 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Interview with Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mate Granic by Dragoslav Kosaric; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kosaric] Mr. Granic, what do you concretely expect from the talks with [FRY—Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] Deputy Prime Minister Simic in Zagreb [on 12 February]?

[Granic] We will discuss three groups of questions. First, the functioning of the Bureau of the Republic of Croatia in Belgrade, that is to say, of the FRY Bureau in Zagreb, and all the details connected to it. According to the information from both sides so far, they will be opened on time.

The other group of questions will comprise of humanitarian issues. The search for missing persons, the problem of refugees, and such like. I believe that the interest here is almost identical, completely identical on several of these issues, and that both sides must invest all efforts to [words indistinct] be resolved as soon as possible. We will also discuss these questions at the meeting of the two delegations. At the same time, as you know, we have formed a joint commission in the presence of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and the International Red Cross Committee.

The third group of questions are political, interstate issues. Some important technical questions regarding the opening of communications will definitely be included in these political issues, but also fundamental questions of the normalization of Serbian-Croatian relations.

[Kosaric] Dr. Zvonimir Markovic, chief of the future Croatian Bureau in Belgrade, recently spoke of five

phases of the implementation of the Geneva declaration. How do you see the declaration within the context of Belgrade-Zagreb relations?

[Granic] It is perfectly obvious that not everything can be resolved with one or two meetings. The problems are too profound, and precisely for this reason it pays to be highly rational and serious in our approach to the resolution of problems. I believe that the opinion to resolve problems in phases is absolutely correct. For this reason, we have initiated the idea about certain degrees of priority and possibilities for resolution today. However, we will definitely raise all the essential political questions tomorrow.

[Kosaric] The Serbian side has insisted on direct Zagreb-Knin talks regarding the problem of the territories controlled by the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] from the very beginning. What is your view, that is, the view of the Republic of Croatia, toward this issue within the framework of the general normalization of relations?

[Granic] Well, Croatia accepts direct negotiations. We are compelled to this by UN Security Council Resolution 871. However, it is equally perfectly obvious that we must first accomplish a total cease-fire, the end of all hostilities, then restore communications, and afterward directly resolve all political issues.

I would like to reiterate that it is beyond any doubt that the stance that FRY will assume toward these regions will be very important. This is the key issue. The UN Security Council resolution also speaks of this. What is more important, the progress in our talks is possible only if we define these matters well, too.

[Kosaric] Tell me, what essential issues for Croatia should be examined as soon as possible?

[Granic] Regarding Croatia, as I have emphasized, it is important, first of all, that Belgrade's influence on the UN Protected Areas [UNPAs] be constructive. We understand that the resolution of the entire issue of UNPA zones is a process. I believe that we have reached a consensus on an all-encompassing cease-fire and the establishment of communications. However, afterward, Croatia will propose a concrete plan. What we expect from Belgrade is to find the final political solution for the UNPA zones as a part of the Republic of Croatia, according to all UN Security Council resolutions passed so far and, naturally, with all international guarantees. However, Belgrade's stance at any moment is the most important.

If Belgrade's stance regarding this is clear, then it is perfectly clear that Belgrade can expect similarly important political moves from us. We are ready for them.

[Kosaric] Will this year be crucial for overall Serbian-Croatian relations, in your view?

[Granic] I believe that this year will be very significant. We have stated very openly that for us it is imperative to resolve the fundamental question—an end to clashes with the Muslims and the permanent regulation of relations. However, [word indistinct] of the relations in this part of Europe are the Serbian-Croatian relations. For the stability of the entire region, Serbian-Croatian relations are of the greatest importance. The permanent normalization of the Croatian-Serbian relations is practically a precondition for peace and stability in this part of Europe. This was also included in the CSCE documents and we firmly stand on this position. Naturally, we would like to see the permanent normalization of relations and, of course, permanent stability, and both counties will profit greatly in the long run.

[Kosaric] The restoration of telephone and transport communications is scheduled for the first phase. For the time being, neither the first nor the latter has been accomplished. When will the telephone communications be restored and is there another condition for their restoration?

[Granic] We will discuss this concretely tomorrow. I have previously told you what are the fundamental problems for the Republic of Croatia. If we resolve some basic political issues, then the restoration of telecommunications and, naturally, all other communications will develop very quickly, in which Croatia has a great interest. We do not expect everything to be resolved instantaneously. We do not expect this. However, we will raise all these issues tomorrow and we expect that they will be resolved in progress and to the mutual interest of both countries.

[Kosaric] Finally, on 15 March, you are supposed to travel to Belgrade to continue the talks. Does your departure depend on the success of the Zagreb round?

[Granic] I believe that my visit to Belgrade will take place some time around 15 March. Regarding the success of the Zagreb round, it is definite that progress will be reached regarding the opening of the Croatian and FRY bureaus. It is definite that we will make progress in the search for missing persons. However, what progress we will make on the political issues remains to be seen tomorrow. In any case, we would like to accomplish major moves.

[Kosaric] Dr. Granic, can we then realistically expect the opening of the FRY and Croatian bureaus in Zagreb and Belgrade on 15 March in accordance with the Geneva declaration?

[Granic] We can, and I believe that Croatia will open its bureau on 15 February. Just after our interview, we are having a meeting to pass the final decision, however, I can say that our side has completed all the preparations. On the other hand, both sides have, so far, fulfilled all their obligations and we expect that the opening will truly take place, perhaps even on 15 February.

I would like to say another thing. You see, no question will be bypassed tomorrow. Naturally, we know very well that the major FRY problems are, for example, sanctions, succession, and other issues. We will definitely

also touched upon the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and search for the final cease-fire, an end to the war, and a lasting peace. Therefore, it does not mean that we will find solutions to everything tomorrow. However, it is certain that we must discuss all problems openly, regardless of how much we differ on them, and try to draw closer. Of course, tomorrow will be the time and the day when we will put forward the proposals for final solutions to everything to one another.

[Kosaric] In the name of Radio Belgrade, Dr. Granic, thank you for the interview.

[Granic] My pleasure.

Granic, Simic Comment on Talks

AU1302214094 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 13 Feb 94

["Exclusive" interview with FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic and Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Mate Granic by Zeljko Avramovic in Zagreb; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Simic] We are clearly showing to the world that Yugoslav foreign political orientation is consistent in its efforts to realize its peacemaking intention, to make a great contribution to the stabilization of the entire territory of the former Yugoslavia, and, moreover, by normalizing relations with Croatia, to make the region of southeastern Europe stable and to bring back to it the properties that this region had in the not so distant past. These properties are—let me remind your viewers and all those people who are following the work and visit of the Yugoslav delegation—that it has been representing and I think that it will continue to represent a bridge between the two civilizations, a region without which modern world could not even be imagined.

However, if somebody claims—I am therefore in a way already inviting critics of such a visit and its consequences—that progress is very small, insignificant, or that it is (?benign), I would not agree with this, because such steps which pervade concrete lives show that life itself can often influence the creation of politics or can change politics in a certain way. It is not true that only politics can influence life and change it in this or the other way.

I think that the Croatian public, just as the public in Yugoslavia, is aware of the fact that the politics that is on the scene in Yugoslavia today is of such a kind that its only aim is to establish peace and to carry out policy devoid of any arrogance, arrogance which is, so to speak, alien to Yugoslav politics.

[Avramovic] Were the Serbian Krajinas, or, as the Croatian side puts it, the regions under UN protection, touched upon [in the talks]?

[Simic] It goes without saying that when I said that the most sensitive issues and the most difficult questions which in a way represent disturbing factors in the relations between the two countries were touched upon, that the problem of the krajinas could not be avoided in any way. However, I must say that both sides—it is immodest to say so on behalf of my own delegation, but I think that the Croatian side will also confirm that—have shown the good intention that any kind of extremism should be avoided in taking any stands. The Yugoslav side had a clear stand that the legitimate will of the Serbian people in the krajinas cannot be avoided and that it is the factor which we must take into account and will always take into account.

[Avramovic] Which of these conclusions, these agreements you consider to be the most significant?

[Granic] Well, I would say that the most important thing is that we have agreed that settling Croat-Serbian relations and the relations between the Republic of Croatia and the FRY is the foundation of the stability of the region and that all problems should be solved in [word indistinct]. In the concrete case, as regards the commission for the disappeared persons, refugees, and humanitarian issues, this is a great step forward. There are problems on both sides equally, and they can be solved only in such an atmosphere.

Official: Government Supports NATO Decision

LD1002145394 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Slovenia supports the decision of the NATO Council to carry out air strikes against Serbian positions in the vicinity of Sarajevo.

This was stated at a news conference in Prague today by Zoran Thaler, the chairman of the Slovenian Parliament's Foreign Committee, who is heading a delegation of this committee on a two-day visit to the Czech Republic.

Too much has been achieved in Bosnia by military means so now it will be difficult to approach the solution merely in a political way, he stressed.

Government Denies Recall of U.S. Attache

AU1002143594 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1800 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Excerpts] In light of some newspapers writing about the alleged replacement of U.S. Ambassador Alan Wendt [as heard], the Slovene Government, the U.S. Embassy, and the Defense Ministry have issued statements:

In its statement, the Slovene Government emphasizes that it has no knowledge of any replacements and that it favors strengthening good relations with Washington in all spheres. The hitherto good cooperation is, to a great extent, also a result of the work and efforts of the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana. [passage omitted]

The claims of the U.S. Embassy were also supported by our Defense Ministry. A brief statement says that Lieutenant (Leach) has, from 3 November 1993, lead very successfully a liaison group within the Army to Army program, which is aimed at exchanging experiences in the military sphere. Claims that Lieutenant (Leach) has been recalled is insulting to Mr. Leach—who has, in the meantime, become a great friend of our country—and harms diplomatic efforts, the international reputation of Slovenia, and cooperation of our ministry with the U.S. Defense Ministry, the Defense Ministry statement says.

Drnovsek Receives U.S. Ambassador Wendt

AU1002151894 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1800 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] This evening, the prime minister's cabinet reported that U.S. Ambassador Alan Wendt was received by Prime Minister Dr. Janez Drnovsek today.

The prime minister praised highly the accomplished level of cooperation in the political and economic spheres and at the same time informed Mr. Wendt that our government today explained its cooperation and contacts with the U.S. diplomatic mission in Ljubljana to the public.

Ambassador Wendt emphasized that a clear stance of the Slovene Government is very important for further strengthening of relations between the states and especially for the support of the United States for Slovenia's integration in international political and economic institutions.

Jansa Holds News Conference on Current Issues

AU1002164494 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 10 Jan 94

[Excerpts] A news conference was held in the government press center this morning, at which Defense Minister Janez Jansa spoke of the views of the Defense Ministry toward some current issues that are part of responsibility of the Defense Ministry. Robert Skerjanc reports:

[Begin Skerjanc recording] First Minister Jansa touched upon the question why Slovenia still has not joined the Partnership for Peace. As the main reason, he stated foot-dragging in parliament's acceptance of clear-cut decisions about drawing closer to NATO.

As the second issue, the minister touched upon yesterday's decision by NATO [regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina]. He assessed it as the first serious measure referring to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, he warned here that the entire affair can turn into a failed attempt at sorting out the matters in this region or into a threat that the Serbs will, in time, skillfully water down. He also pointed at the need to protect the direct vicinity, because we can also expect some retaliation in case of international intervention. [passage omitted]

As a penultimate matter, the minister touched upon, as he said, the biggest international scandal, that is, articles in some papers that claimed that, because of the allegedly too-good relations with the Defense Ministry, the head of the U.S. liaison group, Lieutenant (Leach), and U.S. Ambassador Wendt had to leave Slovenia. He again warned that such writing is harmful for the international reputation of Slovenia as well as the cooperation of the Slovene Defense Ministry with the U.S. Defense Ministry. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Federal

Jovanovic Describes NATO Ultimatum as 'Absurd'

AU1102145394 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German No 6-10 Feb 94 p 9

["Exclusive" interview with FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic by Richard Schneider in Belgrade; date not given: "Solution for Bosnia Through Geneva, Not Through Bombs"]

[Text] [Schneider] Foreign Minister, the call of the world public for military intervention against the Bosnian Serbs has become louder than ever. Are you alarmed by that?

[Jovanovic] It is not new that the question of military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been made topical. For a long time, it has been part of a tested strategy in the policies of several Western countries. A strategy that aims at putting psychological and political pressure on the Serbs in Bosnia, while the need for some of these countries to offer their services to the Islamic bloc, in order to achieve a balance in their relations, is another element of this course of action. At any rate, the wish for such intervention is absurd because at present neither a basis nor a justification for it exists, all the more so since in this civil war it is precisely the Serbs who have had to defend themselves constantly against attacks from the Muslim side for a relatively long time.

[Schneider] Do you not think that this sounds somewhat cynical after the horrible massacre in Sarajevo last Saturday?

[Jovanovic] Only if the blame can be laid on the Serbs by an objective side. But this is not the case here, which was also confirmed by British UN General Richie after he had had a close look at the scene. In his report to the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] he explicitly points out that it is impossible to say whether the shell was fired from a Serbian or a Muslim position. As you know, the latter is said to have already happened before, precisely before important UN resolutions or peace negotiations, so that one could suppose that there is method in it.

[Schneider] A Muslim from Sarajevo would probably answer you now that UNPROFOR's attitude toward the Serbs has always been friendly...

[Jovanovic] Therefore, I deliberately talked of an "objective side" before. Here I mean, for example, an expert commission consisting of Serbs, Muslims, and UNPROFOR people. Believe me, the FRY has the greatest interest in finding and severely punishing those who are responsible for this massacre of innocent civilians. A criminal act like this is an infamous blow against the general peace process and, for that reason alone, it has to be speedily cleared up.

By that time, I can only appeal to the parties involved not to permit any manipulation of this tragic event by politicians or the media. Possible intervention, whatever the excuse for it may be, would only mean more war and far less peace. The solution for the Bosnian problem is to be pursued through the negotiations in Geneva and not through bombs.

[Schneider] Should this course not be possible in the foreseeable future, do you actually see the danger that the Bosnian civil war will also spread to Macedonia or Kosovo?

[Jovanovic] The civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina might only spread to other areas if—to put it cautiously—those foreign "factors" whose interests are also otherwise involved in this war wished it. The temporary orientation of the attention of the public and the mass media toward Kosovo and Macedonia or, to be more straightforward, the downright provocation of war in these regions, could be a variant in the game of interests of these factors.

At any rate, my country is not interested in prolonging the civil war in Bosnia by a single day, to say nothing of spreading it to other areas.

[Schneider] However, Zhirinovskiy's recent visit to Bosnia, his inflammatory nationalist speeches, and the exuberant applause of the Serbs there have again caused serious doubts in the West about Yugoslavia's desire for peace. How do you—to change the subject for a moment—assess Zhirinovskiy's success in the election and his chances in Russia?

[Jovanovic] The rise of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, headed by Mr. Zhirinovskiy, is an important fact and a special phenomenon. It is a phenomenon that requires more profound studies and a more serious explanation than is possible in an answer to a journalist's question. At any rate, his chances to continue to influence his country's domestic policy life and foreign policy will also depend on whether his party finds the right answers to the real needs and problems of today's Russia and how good they are.

[Schneider] Let us finally come back again to the present Yugoslavia: Must the separate peace agreement that was recently concluded with Croatia and that the Croatian media celebrated as recognition not appear to the Krajina Serbs as a betrayal because of their problems with President Tudjman?

[Jovanovic] What you call a separate peace agreement is an agreement between the FRY and the Republic of Croatia on the mutual opening of official representations and offices. It is not recognition, but an important, constructive step and the clear beginning of a normalization of the present situation, which is to be concluded by the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

However, as I have said: This agreement is only the beginning of this road. It does not prejudice the solution

of the existing problems, particularly not the problem of the Serbian Krajina. However, the agreement will certainly facilitate the gradual solution of these problems and help to establish peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina more quickly.

[Schneider] Foreign Minister, thank you for the interview.

Commentary: NATO Threats Lead to Instability

AU1202215194 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Commentary by Slavoljub Susic]

[Text] The massacre at the Sarajevo market last week and the quick accusations that the Army of the Srpska republic committed this appalling act which resulted in the NATO Council ultimatum along with a serious threat of raiding Serbian positions, unambiguously confirm the assessments by military analysts that the territory of the former Yugoslavia as planned by AVNOJ [Anti- Fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia] has obviously been assigned the role of an experimental training ground for the creators of the so-called new world order. It goes without saying that just as in any experiment in which one does not implement the known methods and procedures, so in the one on the territory of the former Yugoslav federation one ignores valid norms of international law and universally accepted principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Act of the CSCE, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, and other international conventions.

The most recent foul massacre of innocent civilians in Sarajevo—carried out according to an already used scenario and with a strong media campaign against the Serbs who are accused without any proofs—has been planned with a view to postponing peace negotiations indefinitely and forcing the Serbian side to make new concessions to the Muslims. As we already know, this has been used as an excuse for the world centers of power to exert pressure on the Serbs again, which was also demonstrated at the aforementioned NATO meeting in Brussels.

It is no coincidence that Manfred Woerner, secretary general of that only remaining military-political alliance, was given the honor of triumphantly announcing one more ultimatum to the Serbs on the model of the one from the distant 1914. It is not surprising as it is coming from the German Woerner. He would like to settle the debts from the wars gone by. However, we are asking what we have done to our European allies and the United States to make them constantly threaten us. Perhaps by being on these regions for centuries, we are standing in the way of their cartographers who would like to delineate new spheres of interest on the already multicolored political map of the Balkans. And interests—as their slogan says—are stronger than distant war alliances and friendships.

One should not therefore be surprised when current U.S. President Clinton frequently stresses that he harbors true fondness for better positions of the Bosnian Muslims, in which he is supported by a large group of oil-rich Islamic countries and France, Great Britain, and, of course, Germany, not to mention others.

By reading more carefully the announcement of the NATO Council of 9 February, which obviously encroaches onto the powers of the UN Security Council, one notices an ultimatum-like demand issued to the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw heavy weapons to 20 km from the center of Sarajevo in 10 days starting from 10 February 1994 at 2400. The demand to Muslim authorities is to put their heavy weaponry under UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] control within the same deadline and, as it is written, to refrain from attacks along the existing lines of confrontation in the city.

Further on, it is pointed out that heavy weaponry of any of the sides which is found within the forbidden zone will be exposed to air strikes by the NATO forces which will be carried out in close coordination with the UN secretary general and in conformity with the decisions of the NATO Council.

Even such as it is, this document could be a step toward the calming down of the clashes. However, the experiences they have had so far warn the Bosnian Serbs to be cautious, because who is to guarantee that the Muslims will not again stage a performance for the world media so that the command of the NATO southern wing may order air strikes at the Serbs? The Serbs will in that case not sit with their arms crossed and head bowed but will respond according to their own possibilities which, as even the potential attackers admit, are not to be underestimated.

Some time at the beginning of last year, one could read in the MOSCOW NEWS the statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the occasion of the demand by the Western partners for Russia to take into account the pressure by Muslim countries when assessing these partners' behavior towards the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis. If we agreed with the very possibility of pressure by the countries that see the Bosnian Muslims as their clients, then it is easy to imagine the formation of a group of Christian countries, with a division into a Catholic and Orthodox groups within it. Then the third world war as well can really begin in Sarajevo.

Zhirinovskiy, Arkan Sign Military Agreement

LD1002143994 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1339 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Pristina, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Borislav Prelevic, the vice president of the Party of Serbian Unity [Stranka Srpskog Jedinstva—SSJ], said in Pristina today he demanded that Ibrahim Rugova, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo [Demokratski Savez

Kosova—DSK], be arrested in, as he put it, "his capacity as the leader of an enemy terrorist organization."

At a news conference, Prelevic said that Rugova and his aides were explicitly working on dismantling the Serbian state in this area. He also warned that they themselves would bring Rugova to court if official organs failed to arrest him.

Borislav Prelevic told the press about a recent meeting between Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and SSJ President Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan, saying that on an that occasion Arkan had been given a secret weapon. This is a solar and laser weapon tested in real-life conditions, called "Elipton," Prelevic explained.

According to Prelevic, Zhirinovskiy and Arkan signed a treaty on military cooperation that envisages, among other things, that in "the event of foreign aggression against any Serbian land dozens of thousands of Kozaks will come to their aid."

Lilic Sends Cable to Butrus-Ghali on Ultimatum

LD1102194794 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1835 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Feb (TANJUG)—In reaction to the latest developments in and around Bosnia-Herzegovina, FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] President Zoran Lilic has sent a telegram to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

According to the FRY President's Office, the telegram says that the FRY upholds the European Union's proposal on resolving the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the agreement on a cease- fire and the demilitarization of Sarajevo signed by the Bosnian Serb and Muslim sides.

The FRY president stresses that this gives Yugoslavia all the more reason to be concerned over NATO's perplexing decision to search for a solution through ultimatums and military might, and adds that such decisions could invoke the continuation of the war, while peace can only be achieved through negotiations on an equal footing. NATO's decision is an unauthorized assumption of the UN Security Council's political competences by this military alliance.

President Lilic also says that the FRY is firmly convinced that the United Nations alone is authorized to reach such political decisions, especially concerning the use of force.

The FRY president also appeals to the UN secretary general to take all necessary measures in order that the UN Security Council may regain its usurped political rights in resolving the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina [as received], which would ensure a successful outcome of the Geneva peace process.

Serbia

Seselj Backs Attacks on UNPROFOR, Bases

LD1002154694 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1418 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Feb (TANJUG)—Vojislav Seselj, president of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS], said today that the Srpska republic should totally reject yesterday's NATO ultimatum. At a news conference Seselj stressed that the radicals advocate negotiations and a truce with the Muslim side on a reciprocal basis but NATO should not interfere.

"If the Srpska republic and the Muslim Jamahiriyah [Bosnia-Herzegovina] agree on a cease-fire and the withdrawal of heavy weaponry, such an agreement should be respected, but NATO has no right to interfere," the SRS leader says. He welcomed Radovan Karadzic's statement that everyone who talks to Serbs in the language of ultimatums should consider the Austro-Hungarian empire's experience.

Seselj said that the massacre in Sarajevo's marketplace was staged by the Muslim regime and that it evidently demonstrated that Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic is a "religious fanatic" who does not think about human lives, as he wants to trigger foreign military intervention.

In the event of an attack on Serb positions in Bosnia, the SRS leader said, every Serb's patriotic duty will be to resist this aggression. "We would regard such an attack in the same way we would regard aggression against Serbia, Montenegro, and the Serb republic of Krajina; in such a case the SRS would rally all volunteers from the SRS and Serbian chetnik movement and dispatch them to the territory of the Srpska republic." He noted that in this event all interparty squabbling should be relegated to the background.

Asked about his personal view, Seselj said that in the event of an attack "one should pound all NATO's possible targets—bases in Italy and other countries from which aircraft would be operating—as well as UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] troops."

"Air raids can achieve nothing. I believe this is how the Serbs will react, whereas we radicals will take part in this reaction," the SRS leader stressed.

Army Spokesman: Air Strikes Will Lead to War

AU1002144594 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 9 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 10 (AFP)—NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo would lead to war in the Balkans and even Europe, a military spokesman for the rump Yugoslavia warned Thursday.

"It would provoke a big war in the Balkans and even in Europe and UN peacekeepers would then become enemies of the Serbs," Colonel Ljubodrag Stojadinovic said

in reponse to NATO's ultimatum warning the Serbs to withdraw all of their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo by February 21 or face raids by NATO warplanes.

His warning, carried by the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA, was the first official Serb reaction to the ultimatum, which was sparked by the weekend attack on a Sarajevo market that left 68 people dead and 197 wounded.

Stojadinovic said the massacre was nothing but a "bloody and fabricated farce" adding that he backed calls by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for an investigation into the attack.

Karadzic walked out of peace talks in Geneva Thursday, saying he refused to participate unless the responsibility for the mortar attack was determined.

The semiofficial Yugoslav news agency TANJUG also criticized the NATO ultimatum Thursday saying that it reflected a decision made by "mediocre politicians."

"A group of mediocre politicians, especially those within the European Community, are making mistakes that are becoming more and more serious, without learning any lessons from previous mistakes," the agency, which generally reflects the Serb government's opinion, said.

Kosovo

LDK on Rugova-Clinton Talks, NATO Ultimatum

AU1102201394 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 11 Feb 94

[Text] At today's news conference by the Kosova Democratic Alliance, reporters were told that the meeting of president of the republic of Kosova Dr. Ibrahim Rugova with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington testifies that the world knows and accepts the self-identity of Kosova and that the Serbian attempts to present Kosova as its internal affair are futile.

This news conference also greeted the NATO ultimatum on the withdrawal from Sarajevo of the heavy artillery of Serbian forces as a precondition to solving the question of Bosnia.

Serb Police Arrest PPK, LDK Leaders

AU1102220694 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 10 Feb 94

[Text] The Kosova Information Center reports that at about 1400 [1300 GMT] on Thursday, Serbian police arrested the leadership of the Kosova Parliamentary Party [PPK] in Lipjan and that of the Kosova Democratic Alliance [LDK] branch in this commune. It is reported that the chairman of the LDK branch in Shtimje commune was also arrested.

A local leader informed the Kosova Information Center that the PPK Central Presidency and the LDK local leadership were holding meetings in the offices of the LDK branch in Lipjan. The number and names of those arrested are still unknown.

Situation 'Tense'

AU1202212994 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 12 Feb 94

[Text] [Announcer] Tense situation reported in Kosova. The Serbian police raided the building of the Kosova Democratic Alliance [LDK] Presidency. There are reports of other raids in Gjakove, Klin, Peje, Podujeve, Vushtrri, and Ferizaj. Let us listen to a telephone report by our correspondent Mehmet Haziri:

[Haziri] In a press communique, the Kosova Information Center reports that large police forces have been surrounding the building of the LDK Presidency in Prishtina since 1200 [1100 GMT] today. Meanwhile, groups of policemen raided its others offices and halls. An LDK administration employee, who was in the building with three other people, said that the Serbian police gave no explanations at all about this intervention. The raid lasted over an hour and, as we were informed, the police confiscated many belongings and various reports of this party, the biggest party of Albanians in the former Yugoslav territory.

During the last 10 days, police interventions in cultural manifestations and in the seats of political parties have been more frequent.

The LDK, as the biggest real and organized force, is the target of the Serbian attacks. Several days ago, the Kosova branch of the so-called Party of Serbian Unity, led by ultranationalist Velko Rasnjatovic Arkan, publicly requested the imprisonment of president of the republic of Kosova Dr. Ibrahim Rugova. This fact clearly testifies to Serbia's stance against the international demand to cool the nationalist fanatics, whose craziness is applied by the police in the field with raids, maltreatments, and arrests of Albanians.

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